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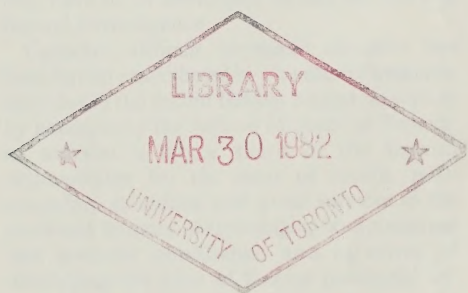
Ontario

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 1

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Tuesday, March 9, 1982

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, March 9, 1982

The Second Session of the 32nd Parliament of the province of Ontario opened at 3 p.m. for the dispatch of business pursuant to a proclamation of the Honourable J. B. Aird, Lieutenant Governor of the province.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, having entered the chamber and being seated upon the throne, was pleased to open the session with the following gracious speech.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Hon. Mr. Aird: Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly, this House reconvenes at a time when this province, the nation and indeed the entire western world are faced with severe economic difficulties. While it is clear that the legislators of Ontario cannot be expected, by themselves, to reverse these difficult circumstances, we must nevertheless devote our abilities and our energies to putting Ontario on a more positive economic track.

Ontarians face an array of economic challenges. Unemployment and inflation, slow growth and lower productivity have characterized our national economy for almost a decade.

We in the government of Ontario have always believed that the creation and maintenance of productive employment must be our central concern. As such, we have urged the federal government to join with us in a program of economic recovery designed to stimulate noninflationary growth and create jobs for Ontarians.

But, more recently, we have been asked by the federal government to bear the additional burden of high interest rates. High interest rates remove incentive, make risk less attractive, particularly to the small business community, and as a result cause homes and farms to be lost or make it impossible for many of our citizens to even contemplate owning a house. They limit investment, reduce consumer purchases and reduce the demand for manufactured and other products to which employment in this province is so closely tied.

At the first ministers' meeting on the economy, held just over one month ago, the Prime Minister and his Minister of Finance set out the reasons why they were maintaining a high interest rate policy for Canada and suggested that certain

consequences would follow if this approach were not maintained. One province after another outlined massive unemployment and slowdown in economic activity that was being caused by the federal policy and stated that the human and social costs arising from such a policy were unacceptable.

In spite of this united opposition, the government of Canada remained firm in its position that its current monetary policy, with all of the hardships that it causes, must be maintained if inflation is to be brought under control. While Ontario will continue to urge reconsideration of this approach, we must be realistic in recognizing that provincial plans may have to be developed on and around this federal intransigence.

Canada's difficult economic situation has been further exacerbated by a number of measures included in the recent federal budget, as well as by attempts by the federal Minister of Finance to transfer a larger share of the federal responsibility for the costs of health, post-secondary education and social services to the provinces. In terms of encouraging both consumer and investor confidence and in terms of developing the type of federal provincial co-operation essential to economic recovery, the timing of these measures could not have been worse.

Ontario will therefore continue to press the government of Canada to develop a fiscal strategy more appropriate to the need for renewed economic confidence, investment and growth. In this context, we will continue to ask for a streamlining of the administrative procedure of the Foreign Investment Review Agency to ensure that beneficial investment is not prohibited from entering the country. Similarly, Ontario will stress the need for a continued renegotiation of the cutbacks of social services funding proposed by Ottawa.

If increased employment opportunities for both the short and medium terms are to be created in order to get unemployed Canadians back to work, effective federal-provincial co-operation will be required.

Nous sommes par conséquent très préoccupés par la position adoptée récemment par le premier ministre du Canada lorsqu'il a déclaré publiquement que le principe du fédéralisme co-opératif ne régissait plus l'exercice des relations fédérales-provinciales dans notre pays. Le gouvernement de l'Ontario a la ferme conviction que les deux paliers de gouvernement doivent collaborer si nous voulons réaliser le potentiel économique qui constitue notre patrimoine national commun. L'Ontario, comme par le passé, est toujours prêt à jouer son rôle.

3:10 p.m.

Consequently, we are extremely concerned with the public position recently adopted by the Prime Minister that the principle of co-operative federalism no longer governs the exercise of federal-provincial relations in this country. It is the strongly held view of the government of Ontario that both levels of government in Canada must work together if we are ever to achieve the economic potential which is our common national heritage. As such, Ontario, as in the past, stands ready to play its part.

Ontario realizes, however, that with or without federal co-operation, and despite the limited impact that any single province can have upon a situation that is caused by both national and international circumstances, we must take those initiatives that we consider to be both helpful and appropriate to combat the impact of high interest rates, high inflation and high unemployment upon our citizens.

Later in this session the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) will introduce a budget designed to address those economic challenges we face together as Ontarians. For example, this budget will provide for job-creating measures of the following nature:

Global funding for youth employment will be increased and greater emphasis given to creating job opportunities for out-of-school youth on a year-round basis.

The capital works program supported by this government will be accelerated, thus providing employment in the construction industry in a number of Ontario centres at dates earlier than had originally been scheduled.

A wide range of initiatives will be taken to increase the stock of rental housing, particularly in the area in and around Metropolitan Toronto, thus meeting a pressing social need, while at the same time creating jobs in the building trades.

The recently announced forest improvement project will be expanded. This will allow the

forest industry in Ontario to recall laid-off workers and maintain payrolls to the fullest extent possible during the current downturn in the market.

Special employment initiatives will be adopted by the Ministry of Natural Resources to upgrade and accelerate the construction of resource access roads, thereby creating hundreds of new jobs.

Federal authorities will be encouraged to consider new programs by which funds normally paid as unemployment insurance can be directed and supplemented to provide employment in other areas of worthwhile endeavours.

The current economic downturn has led to a number of plant closures and bankruptcies. In order to enhance the chances of saving such companies, the government will attempt to determine which companies can be saved through our highly successful buy-back program.

We are particularly conscious of the difficulties being experienced in the farming industry. While all sectors of the economy are suffering in these difficult times, agriculture is least able to withstand high interest rates and a cost-price squeeze. We have already provided major financial support to beef producers to help them weather a difficult year. In addition, we have recently implemented a broad-based farm assistance program to reduce the interest burden and maintain the supply of essential working capital.

My government will bring forward in this session a package of additional measures to assist agriculture further.

Federal aid mechanisms such as the Farm Credit Corporation and small business bonds are inadequate to meet current financing needs of the farming community. Therefore, Ontario's farm adjustment assistance program will be broadened to help a greater number of farmers.

The government recognizes the problems faced today by young farmers. It places a high priority on continuing to attract young people to establish themselves in this vital sector of our economy and will introduce a new measure to provide them with startup capital assistance.

The government will legislate improved financial protection to ensure that producers are paid in the event of financial default by buyers.

The government will increase the funding for the Foodland Ontario program and introduce new identification standards for food products in order to stimulate sales of Ontario food products and reduce our dependency on imports. This emphasis, along with export expansion and

research, will be incorporated in a reorganized program and administrative structure to be announced by the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell).

The government is committed to improved income security for our farm producers through an effective long-term stabilization plan for national commodities. Ontario is prepared to take a leadership role in developing and financing such a national plan, which would involve the federal and provincial governments, as well as the producers.

While Ontario is taking these and other measures as may prove feasible and necessary during the course of this session, attention must continue to be paid to the need for an economic base for the medium and longer term. Such positive actions will be aided considerably by a general upturn in economic conditions in North America predicted for later this year.

The government of Ontario has ensured that a comprehensive program exists for economic growth. The cornerstone for the Ontario approach is, of course, the BILD program, which was launched during the last year. The success of this effort has been encouraging, but further advances will be made and, as in so many areas of economic activity, can be made to be more effective if adequate co-operation is forthcoming from the federal authorities. Last year, it will be recalled, Ontario called upon the government of Canada to join us in a number of initiatives that would be of national benefit. To date, Ottawa has been slow to respond.

We would hope, however, that recent attempts by Ottawa to restructure government organization to deal with economic development will ensure that priority investment projects are undertaken in all parts of this country. In Ontario, for sake of emphasis, we would note that we seek co-operation in such ventures as the planning process in allocating funds to an upgraded rail service in Ontario; upgrading drydock facilities on the Great Lakes; developing an Ontario Hydro fusion research program; establishing a centre for research in toxicology; developing a program for industrial mineral development; accelerating development of new rapid transit projects; and establishing an autotechnicentre.

There is no doubt that the greatest single impediment to the revitalization of the economy of this province is the current state of the North American automotive industry. While billions of dollars have already been spent to refit and retool plants so as to produce cars that

are more in keeping with new consumer demands, the market, nevertheless, continues to diminish under the combined forces of high interest rates and increased competition from lower-cost manufacturers abroad, particularly the Japanese. Ontario believes that neither this government nor our federal counterpart can simply stand by and let events continue to take their own course. This matter is too important and the consequences too serious to follow a path of laissez-faire liberalism.

As a result, we have entered into discussions with federal authorities and business and labour leaders to develop an appropriate Canadian reaction to the current situation. In our opinion, that course must include arrangements that, in the short term at least, restrict the number of imported cars being brought into this country in order to allow our own industry sufficient time to regear itself for the new circumstances that prevail within the industry and, at the same time, to reach an arrangement with the foreign manufacturers to increase Canadian content in their products to a level of not less than 85 per cent.

3:20 p.m.

Further, this province will urge and encourage the federal government to join with us in promoting an educational program that will make our citizens more aware that the welfare of all of us is related to the health and vitality of our automotive and other manufacturing enterprises and that that health can only be maintained by appropriate purchasing practices by Canadian consumers. The buy-Canadian program has been in place for some time now. Its message, however, must be made more emphatic and the results must be more pervasive.

Ontario's efforts to restructure and revitalize industry will not be confined to the automotive sector. Consistent with the economic development initiatives embodied in the BILD program, the restructured Ministry of Industry and Trade Development will devote itself to preserving existing jobs as well as creating new job opportunities, enhancing our industrial capacity and developing new market opportunities throughout the world.

The new ministry will move quickly to expand our Canadian market development resources to assist business, to liaise with other provincial governments and to gather and distribute critical market information to Ontario companies. A series of wide-ranging trade missions to expand and intensify Ontario's trade

opportunities will be undertaken, particularly in Europe, the Pacific Rim, Latin America and Africa.

At the same time, this province must build upon its initial successes to ensure that we stay at the forefront of the dramatic changes and opportunities that are currently taking place in those areas of industrial development generally called microelectronics and high technology. Members are aware that we are proceeding with the development of new technological and research centres throughout the province, as well as the creation of the new IDEA Corp. to ensure more effective co-operation between industry and our educational institutions in the development of meaningful industrial research. These initiatives will be the responsibility of the new ministry.

Building on the continuing success of the Urban Transportation Development Corp., both in Canada and abroad, and the significant opportunities for transportation technology export abroad, UTDC and the Ontario International Corp. will pursue significant new joint marketing initiatives in a complementary way in Europe, Asia and South America.

In line with our efforts to improve the representation of our interests outside Canada, the Ontario office in Brussels will become fully operational, and the present Paris office will be upgraded from a trade office to one representing the full range of Ontario's interests, political and cultural, as well as economic.

New or rapidly expanding small businesses are often constrained in their growth by an inability to acquire equity venture capital. As a positive step in alleviating this problem, the board of governors of the Toronto Stock Exchange recently put forward a proposal for the creation of a new venture capital listing for junior resource and industrial companies, subject to exacting rules of disclosure and standards of protection for investors. This new listing will improve the access of entrepreneurial companies in Ontario to public equity markets and to the financing necessary for continued growth and investment. The government of Ontario urges the Toronto Stock Exchange to proceed with its proposal, subject to the usual review by the Ontario Securities Commission.

As a complementary measure aimed at stimulating investor interest in Ontario-based junior companies which list on the proposed venture capital section of the Toronto Stock Exchange, the government of Ontario will work closely

with officials of the exchange to introduce an incentive program for investors purchasing new issues of shares in Ontario junior companies. This joint public and private sector initiative will ensure that innovative and entrepreneurial firms in the province continue to grow and create new employment opportunities for all Ontarians.

One of the essential components of stable economic development is a secure source of skilled manpower to meet the needs of business and industry. While Ontario's training infrastructure is without parallel in Canada, more can be done to meet changing needs. We reaffirm our commitment to the development of skilled manpower in this province and we will work to ensure that adequate funding and design are committed to occupational training. Particular attention will be paid to the introduction of a wage incentive program for the training of high-level software development specialists.

Ontario is prepared to work co-operatively with the federal government to improve the manpower training system. However, we are convinced that no significant advance can be achieved without meaningful and substantial input from the parties most directly concerned — labour and management. Accordingly, Ontario will expand the membership of the Ontario Manpower Commission by the addition of senior representatives from the labour and management communities.

Despite current economic trends, the tourism industry has within the last two years demonstrated its significant growth potential. Over 28 million United States visitors entered Ontario in 1981, representing a significant increase over the previous year. This trend, coming as it does from the United States, Ontario's largest foreign tourism market, is evidence of the efforts which the industry is making under the umbrella of the government's "Yours to discover!" marketing program. These visitor increases translate into additional jobs in our hospitality sector, now estimated to employ 500,000 Ontarians.

In meeting both the economic and social needs of our province, many programs have been developed over the past several years which relate to tourism and recreational development. In order to maximize program development and delivery and to exploit the full economic potential of tourism development and recreational usage of Ontario's resources, my government is creating a new Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

Additional resources will be provided to

expand the successful tourism marketing program, particularly in the United States and Europe. This initiative signifies the high priority being placed on both the economic and social value of these programs to the people and the economy of Ontario.

Ontario will continue to seek fairness and balance in management-labour relations throughout the province. As a result, in consultation with the ministries of Labour and Industry and Trade Development, measures to provide protection for employees under the Employment Standards Act will be advanced in such areas as unjust dismissal and protection of severance pay. Proposals will be brought forward to strengthen existing equal pay provisions; to further the advancement of women in the work force in both the public and private sectors; and to extend the counselling and training of workers affected by plant closures.

In addition, the government will continue to confer with interested parties with respect to reform of the workmen's compensation system of Ontario along the lines outlined in the white paper on workers' compensation tabled during the last session.

Energy users in all sectors of the Ontario economy have been making significant efforts in energy conservation. To support these efforts, the government will undertake an expanded program of education, drawing on the results of our investment in energy research and development, to provide citizens and businesses with the information they need to make their own sound decisions. A special focus will be to provide those in the building industry with essential information on conservation techniques and materials in order to reduce energy consumption in both new and existing homes.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Energy will implement an expanded agricultural energy management program to support Ontario agriculture in adjusting to changing energy supply and price so as to maintain its present efficient and competitive position.

Initiatives will be taken this year to advance the agricultural and industrial potential of the Bruce Energy Centre. Specifically, a greenhouse complex will be developed, designed to replace imported products and to expand Ontario's greenhouse industry. At the same time, a major national and international marketing program will be undertaken to attract industry

to the centre to take advantage of the low cost and secure supply of steam energy available from the Bruce nuclear power development.

3:30 p.m.

Ontario's electrical power system continues to be a cornerstone of the provincial economy and the envy of other jurisdictions. Its continued vitality and development to meet our needs are essential to sustaining economic growth.

Ontario Hydro is currently engaged in the largest capital construction program in its history. Three nuclear generating stations are under construction at Bruce, Pickering and Darlington and, as noted in the BILD report, are "directly responsible for thousands of construction jobs and the wellbeing of a multitude of sophisticated supply industries."

My government remains firmly committed to having Ontario Hydro reduce the acid gas emissions from its coal-fired generating stations by half by the year 1990. As a public corporation, Ontario Hydro must set an example for others to follow. Hydro will undertake whatever steps are necessary to meet the emission levels stipulated in the government's regulation. These steps will include designing and retrofitting scrubbers, installing some 700 special burners, increasing use of blended and low-sulphur coal, and replacing coal generation with new nuclear and hydraulic energy. By way of this program, Ontario Hydro, under the direction and regulation of my government, will provide leadership in the reduction of contributions to acid rain.

In the long term, Ontario will have to change to an economy based primarily on renewable and essentially inexhaustible energy sources. A fuel of great promise in this regard is hydrogen. In 1981 the government established the Institute for Hydrogen and Electrochemical Systems as a focal point for advanced research and development in these new energy systems. In addition, the Ministry of Northern Affairs will co-ordinate programs to stimulate and encourage pilot projects using peat and waste wood.

My government, through the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, in co-operation with Canadian National Railways, will undertake a review of long-term options for improved commuter rail service. The ministry, together with GO Transit, will also review bus service and commuter parking facilities.

It is recognized that the planned withdrawal of Via Rail services to a number of communities north and east of Toronto on September 7, 1982, will cause hardship and inconvenience to hundreds of daily commuters. As an interim

measure, my government intends to replace certain of those services using GO Transit. Stouffville, Unionville and Agincourt will have their one Via train per day replaced by GO rail service. GO bus service and other bus systems will provide services further along this corridor. For commuters in the northern corridor, GO rail service will commence as far north as the Bradford area. Bus service will be improved to carry passengers north to Barrie from the end of the rail service.

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications will be introducing a child restraint program in the form of legislation during the spring session. These amendments to the Highway Traffic Act will provide for mandatory restraints for children under the age of five, or 50 pounds, travelling in automobiles in Ontario. This initiative will permit maximum protection for small children.

In northern Ontario, specific social and economic activities will be pursued to enhance the quality of life and the breadth of economic opportunity to that important region of Ontario. The government will take a significant step to deal with the needs of elderly people in the small and remote communities of northern Ontario.

In conjunction with the ministries of Health, Community and Social Services and Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Northern Affairs will initiate a special program of assistance to these communities to establish small facilities suitable to the provision of extended care services for elderly people that will allow them to receive the care they need closer to home.

The ministries of Health and Community and Social Services will examine jointly the problems of those homes providing extended care for elderly people who require special nursing services.

In Ontario we continue to enjoy one of the finest health care systems in the world and the government remains committed to its continuing excellence, despite attempts by the federal government to reduce its levels of support.

While we maintain this excellence, we intend to focus in some very direct ways during the coming year on the twin problems of heart disease and cancer, which continue to plague us. The Ministry of Health will undertake a range of health promotion programs to encourage healthy habits aimed particularly at the young people of the province. At the same time, the ministry will join with the cancer treatment centres of Ontario to provide them with newly developing diagnostic tools.

We intend immediately to assist Princess Margaret Hospital to install a nuclear diagnostic system so that it will have the safest and most advanced method for diagnosing malignant tumours in their earliest stage.

As the next step in the development of an advanced life support system within the emergency services of Ontario, we will be developing special advanced training programs for ambulance personnel and begin the establishment of a province-wide program of utilization of these services. We will also introduce special pilot programs with other governments and voluntary agencies to teach cardio-pulmonary resuscitation techniques to a broad section of the population.

Planning is currently under way for the implementation of the recently announced changes to the homemaker programs of Health and Community and Social Services. These are designed to improve the availability and accessibility of services, and the assessment of needs particularly with respect to frail elderly people and the physically handicapped. The Ministry of Health is responsible for the program, which will be operated by local home care agencies. It will be phased in, commencing in 1982, with five or six areas which already have Health's acute and chronic home care programs. This initiative will also provide relief from the burden that had been carried by municipal social services.

My government is committed to fostering the independence of seniors and recognizing the valuable contribution of their talents, experience and skills. In keeping with this commitment, a seniors secretariat has been established within the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development. The seniors secretariat will develop a co-operative working relationship among government, voluntary organizations and senior citizens to ensure that appropriate planning takes place to respond to the increasing number and changing expectations of seniors in the province.

My government has demonstrated a major commitment to meeting the need for day care services that has resulted from such societal changes as the growth in single-parent families and the increased involvement of women in the work force. This commitment will be maintained, recognizing that the government must work in partnership with others such as parents, municipalities and the private sector. Support of parent-sponsored programs, particularly those that made use of empty space available in schools, will be encouraged to develop appro-

appropriate programs for those in need of day care. Recently established supports for the informal network of day care services will be maintained and expanded. It is only by recognizing the ongoing role of all the major partners in the provision of day care services that an appropriate range of programs for children will be provided.

Le gouvernement poursuivra vigoureusement sa politique de prestation de services en langue française à la population francophone de l'Ontario. Plusieurs mesures seront prises en 1982 pour améliorer les services en langue française offerts par le gouvernement de l'Ontario et ses agences. En particulier,

(a) nous allons présenter des amendements visant à faciliter l'acceptation des testaments et des autres documents d'enregistrement des titres fonciers en français;

(b) nous allons proposer un amendement à la loi municipale afin de donner le choix aux municipalités de mener leurs affaires en français ainsi qu'en anglais;

(c) Nous allons améliorer les capacités d'un certain nombre de ministères et agences en matière de services en français, aussi bien dans les bureaux centraux que régionaux, selon les besoins.

3:40 p.m.

Legislation will be introduced to establish the new Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. Its mandate will be to advance and encourage responsible citizenship among the residents of Ontario. This will be accomplished by policies that recognize the pluralistic nature of Ontario society and stress the full participation of all Ontarians as equal members of the community. We will encourage the sharing of cultural heritage, while affirming those elements of Canadian identity held in common by all. To this end, the ministry will assist in the stimulation of cultural expression and cultural preservation, including the development of individual and community excellence.

The Ministry of Citizenship and Culture will be designated as the lead ministry for multiculturalism in my government.

Effective law enforcement is one of the cornerstones of a civilized and just society. With this in mind, my government reconfirms its commitment to maintain the present high quality of policing in Ontario. New initiatives will be presented with respect to civil procedure in the courts through a court of justice bill. Ontario will also firmly opt in to all the provisions of the charter of rights in the new constitution.

A systematic review of all Ontario legislation and government programs will be undertaken to ensure that my government's commitment to the provisions of the charter of rights and freedoms is met. My government will also undertake a review of existing legislation with respect to the primacy of the recently passed amendments to the Human Rights Code. This review will be completed and the necessary adjustments made within the two-year period in the act.

One of the major accomplishments of the Legislature in the last session was the passage of a comprehensive new Human Rights Code which, among other things, extends protection to the handicapped. It is the intention of the government to proclaim the legislation in June to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the passage of Ontario's original human rights code, the first in Canada.

We in the government of Ontario shared in the pride and joy of all Canadians in the successful resolution of our constitutional differences with the signing of an accord on November 5 of last year. We look forward with great anticipation to the visit of Her Majesty the Queen, when our constitution will finally be brought home.

We will continue to work towards bringing Quebec into the constitutional consensus. Further, we remain committed to the full participation of aboriginal peoples in the definition and entrenchment of their rights within our constitution, and a conference of first ministers will be held to complete the work on the constitutional accord.

Overall, Ontario will seek to provide stability and opportunity at home while urging more balanced economic policies upon the government of Canada.

Our own resources in Ontario, both human and natural, and our inherently strong manufacturing base, can combine to shape an economic recovery of impressive proportions. For the unemployed this cannot happen fast enough.

Ontario must and will do all that it can, within the limits of its own financial resources, to improve the climate for the creation of jobs, sustain economic growth and enhance opportunity. We must do so both within our means and with all the means at our disposal.

We shall continue to pursue a pro-growth, pro-investment, pro-Canadian participation in our economic program, stressing the accelerated development of our small business, agricultural, manufacturing, export and high-technology sectors.

It is during challenging times that this government and this parliament face the most difficult yet important task of serving, with both sensitivity and humanity, the interests of the people we are all most fortunate to serve, the people of Ontario.

In our Sovereign's name, I thank you.
God bless the Queen and Canada.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was then pleased to retire from the chamber.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that to prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy of His Honour's speech, which I will now read.

[Reading dispensed with.]

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF MAINTENANCE ORDERS ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Wells, first reading of Bill 1, An Act to revise the Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act.

Motion agreed to.

3:50 p.m.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER FOR HAMILTON WEST

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that a vacancy has occurred in the membership of the House by reason of the resignation of Stuart Lyon Smith, MD, FRCP, former member for Hamilton West.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr. Speaker: I further beg to inform the House that Mr. David Robertson Peterson, QC, BA, LLB, member for the electoral district of London Centre, is recognized as leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition.

[Applause]

Quite obviously, everyone is very happy with that announcement. I would like to add my personal congratulations as well.

MOTIONS

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to this House be taken into consideration on Thursday next.

Motion agreed to.

HOUSE SITTINGS

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that commencing tomorrow, March 10, this House will not sit in the chamber on Wednesdays unless otherwise ordered.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that the first day for consideration of private members' public bills and orders be Thursday, April 8, 1982, and in accordance with the order of the House passed December 18, 1981, the order of precedence established during the first session be continued during the second session.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE SITTING

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that the select committee on the Ombudsman be authorized to sit on Wednesday, March 10, 1982.

Motion agreed to.

RECOGNITION OF NEW LEADERS

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, before moving the customary adjournment of the House, on the first day it is normal for the leader of government to say very little. There will be members opposite who will wish that tradition would continue and I can assure them the only reason I have leapt to my feet is to express in a very public way to the new leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition my congratulations and personal best wishes.

There was a period when I was not sure I would be here this afternoon to express those best wishes, but I am here, feeling not inhibited in any way, manner, shape or form, and I did want to take this occasion publicly to express my best wishes to him. I think it is obvious that we will have an opportunity, whether it starts Thursday, Friday, Monday or Tuesday, to reminisce together over some of the contradictions that flowed from that great convention where he was a participant, to look at some of the others, to analyse the policies that emerge and flow from that great meeting and how one reconciles these, which we will do in the fullness of time.

I also know that the new Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) is one who endorses the feeling it is always better the second time around. I know what he was feeling at that particular convention.

Mr. Peterson: Some of us can do it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have to say the Leader of the Opposition should be careful not to provoke me today. I really am in very good humour. I don't want to trot out some of the lines I have been saving for four years, knowing full well what his ambitions have been.

While I am on my feet I would congratulate in a very sincere way the member for London Centre and also extend my best wishes to the members of his family. I really did not watch the convention that carefully, but I did see parts of it and I do have to say as an unbiased observer it was the wife of the member for London Centre who convinced more of the delegates than he did. It was quite obvious her background and her prior philosophical involvement had much to do with it.

I am taking longer than I should, Mr. Speaker, but I do know the Leader of the Opposition was looking for an opportunity to permit his caucus to applaud once again and to justify the carnations they are wearing today—that they purchased in Brampton.

I do know something of the personal sacrifice that is involved on the part of anybody assuming a position as leader of a political party. In a public sense I would like to express my best wishes to the new leader of the New Democratic Party who does not have a seat in this House. He will understand when I say we will do our very best to make sure that he does not get a seat in this House.

I say that in a very kindly sense, Mr. Speaker, because I really was looking for him in your gallery, but he is not there; he is on the floor of the House. The last time I had the occasion to welcome him to this House he was up there in your gallery, sir—I was going to say as a student revolutionary, but that would be unfair—as a student activist. As I recall he was seeking some modest participation by students in the governing of our universities to the extent there should be 85 per cent student representation and 10 per cent from the general public.

The leader of the New Democratic Party has moderated his views since that time but I do recall him sitting up there and that being the issue of the day. I welcome him to the floor of the House and wish him well in his very onerous responsibilities. In a very kindly and what some might describe as a somewhat fatherly fashion we wish him well on the floor of the House. We will do our best to see that his participation is limited there.

We look forward to the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) conducting the affairs of

the party on his behalf, knowing full well that he will speak as the leader would speak—he is not nearly as articulate, but none the less—How was it described in some of the platform appearances? In that rather bland fashion some of us have found to be successful for some 12 years here.

With those very few words, I do welcome the new leader of the Liberal Party and the leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition to wish him many years in that position of responsibility. To the leader of the New Democratic Party, my personal best wishes for his personal success.

Mr. Peterson: I am sure, Mr. Speaker, you are very happy the Premier (Mr. Davis) has a toothache today. Can you imagine how long he would have gone on if he had not had one? I am sure when the Premier looks across the House and sees the energy and enthusiasm in our party today it must take him back some 30 or 40 years when he used to have that in his own party.

Interjections.

Mr. Peterson: For the first time in my life I was completely at one with the Premier when he complimented my wife, who is with me today. I do appreciate that. I notice the Premier must feel he is in some trouble because he has his family in full force to help him.

4 p.m.

I do want to tell the members that I am deeply honoured to have been chosen the leader of my party at the convention some two weeks ago. It is an honourable position. It has a long tradition with some success and some failure. I am honoured to walk in the shoes of Messrs. Mowat, Hepburn, Nixon and Smith. I assure members that we will attempt to discharge our responsibilities to the very best of our ability.

Sometimes in the partisan fray we forget that we are all, in the end, dedicated to the very same responsibilities, and that is to the welfare of the people of Ontario. Even though I am sure the Premier and I may view our responsibilities differently on occasion—as I will with the Premier, as I will with Mr. Rae—I know that good faith and respect will be the operative words in this House.

If I may, I would also like to congratulate Bob Rae on assuming the leadership of the New Democratic Party. I look forward to working with him and I congratulate him as well as all the members of his party on that great convention.

I am delighted that the Premier started the

first day by bringing my father-in-law into this. I fully suspected that he would; it was just a question of how long it would take.

Interjection.

Mr. Peterson: Well, the Premier wanted to. He should admit it right now. I thank him only for not bringing my brother into it, even though he did blame the federal government for roughly the first half of the throne speech today.

I hope that is going to be the end of it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No.

Mr. Peterson: If he feels he wants to communicate with my father-in-law, I will happily provide him with his address. If he wants to communicate with my brother in Ottawa he can send him a letter in care of the House of Commons, no stamp required.

I just want to say, on behalf of my party in a personal way, how very happy we are that the Premier is here today. We read with some concern about his stay in the hospital with an abscessed wisdom tooth. We, like the Premier, are dedicated to the cause of rooting out decay.

Mr. Foulds: I notice, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier obviously has not had his tooth pulled. We accept the congratulations in the spirit in which they were given and we would like to congratulate the Premier on his second decade of leadership of his party.

[Applause]

Mr. Foulds: I must say that is a bad sign for me to receive applause from the Conservative benches, but I also want to extend congratulations to the leader of the Liberal Party. I congratulate him on his success. I know something of his trials and of the vigour with which he conducted that campaign.

I do want to remind the Premier, however, that our convention is over and we do have a leader. The Premier's is yet to come. Mr. Rae will be making life as miserable as possible for the government on the hustings and I will be doing so here in the Legislature. Together, he and I and our colleagues in the Legislature will be trying to bring tough but constructive opposition as vigorously as we can for the people of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I have several other thoughts I wish to express, but I—

Mr. Mancini: You had your turn.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I listened very carefully to a lot of speeches by the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) and I really wanted to expand on many of them here this afternoon. I shall not.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to move the adjournment of the House.

The House adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

APPENDIX

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(124 members)

Second Session of the 32nd Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. J. B. Aird, OC, QC

Speaker: Hon. John M. Turner

Clerk of the House: Roderick Lewis, QC

- Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
- Ashe, Hon. G. L.**, Minister of Revenue (Durham West PC)
- Baetz, Hon. R. C.**, Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Ottawa West PC)
- Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)
- Bennett, Hon. C. F.**, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Ottawa South PC)
- Bernier, Hon. L.**, Minister of Northern Affairs (Kenora PC)
- Birch, Hon. M.**, Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Scarborough East PC)
- Boudria, D. (Prescott-Russell L)
- Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L)
- Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
- Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
- Breithaupt, J. R. (Kitchener L)
- Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
- Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
- Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
- Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L)
- Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
- Copps, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)
- Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman of Committees of the Whole House (York Centre PC)
- Cunningham, E. G. (Wentworth North L)
- Cureatz, S. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees of the Whole House (Durham East PC)
- Davis, Hon. W. G.**, Premier (Brampton PC)
- Dean, G. H. (Wentworth PC)
- Di Santo, O. (Downsview NDP)
- Drea, Hon. F.**, Minister of Community and Social Services (Scarborough Centre PC)
- Eakins, J. F. (Victoria-Haliburton L)
- Eaton, Hon. R. G.**, Minister without Portfolio (Middlesex PC)
- Edighoffer, H. A. (Perth L)
- Elgie, Hon. R. G.**, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (York East PC)
- Elston, M. J. (Huron-Bruce L)
- Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)
- Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC)
- Fish, S. A. (St. George PC)
- Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
- Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
- Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)
- Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)
- Gregory, Hon. M. E. C.**, Minister without Portfolio (Mississauga East PC)
- Grossman, Hon. L. S.**, Minister of Health (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
- Haggerty, R. (Erie L)
- Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)
- Havrot, E. M. (Timiskaming PC)
- Henderson, Hon. L. C.**, Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Lambton PC)
- Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)
- Hodgson, W. (York North PC)
- Johnston, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC)
- Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
- Jones, T. (Mississauga North PC)
- Kells, M. C. (Humber PC)
- Kennedy, R. D. (Mississauga South PC)
- Kerr, G. A. (Burlington South PC)
- Kerrio, V. G. (Niagara Falls L)
- Kolyn, A. (Lakeshore PC)
- Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin PC)
- Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
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- McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)
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- McNeil, R. K. (Elgin PC)

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Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L)

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Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)

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O'Neil, H. P. (Quinte L)

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Treleaven, R. L. (Oxford PC)

Turner, Hon. J. M., Speaker (Peterborough PC)

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Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South PC)

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Bernier, Hon. L., Minister of Northern Affairs

Snow, Hon. J. W., Minister of Transportation and Communications

Birch, Hon. M., Provincial Secretary for Social Development

Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Miller, Hon. F. S., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics

Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Agriculture and Food

Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities

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Henderson, Hon. L. C., Provincial Secretary for Resources Development

Norton, Hon. K. C., Minister of the Environment

Drea, Hon. F., Minister of Community and Social Services

Grossman, Hon. L., Minister of Health

McCague, Hon. G., Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet and Chairman of Cabinet

Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Tourism and Recreation

Wiseman, Hon. D. J., Minister of Government Services

Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Walker, Hon. G. W., Minister of Industry and Trade Development

Gregory, Hon. M. E. C., Minister without Portfolio

Pope, Hon. A. W., Minister of Natural Resources

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Ramsay, Hon. R. H., Minister of Labour

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Kennedy, R. D. (Mississauga South), assistant to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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Pensions: Chairman, Mr. J. A. Taylor; members, Messrs. Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Gillies, Haggerty, Jones, Mackenzie, McClellan, Riddell, Van Horne and Williams; clerk, G. White.

*The lists in this appendix, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard on the first Friday of each month and in the first and last issues of each session.

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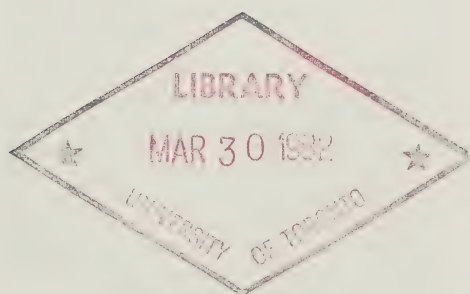


Ontario, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 2

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Thursday, March 11, 1982

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Thursday, March 11, 1982

The House met at 2:01 p.m.

Prayers.

PRAYER FOR WINDSOR

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order involving a matter of importance to the people of Windsor. This week of March 7 to 13 has been proclaimed by Windsor city council as a week of prayer for the needs of the city of Windsor. I ask the members of the Legislature to join me in this prayer of hope that is being offered by the churches and the people of the city of Windsor.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I ask whether I may have the consent of this House to offer this prayer.

Mr. Speaker: It is up to the members of the House to grant that consent. Do we have that consent?

Agreed.

Mr. Wrye: O Heavenly Father, we earnestly pray for divine guidance to be given to the leaders of the community, the mayor, city council and others; that an increase in righteousness and a decrease in crime and wrongdoing should prevail;

For the safety and the protection of the elderly and infirm and for the police and firefighters who perform difficult duties; for a decrease in death and disability and tragic accidents; for speedy recovery of the economic problems of the city and its people and for continued improvement in its way of life;

For an improvement of the general health and wellbeing of all the people; for success to the work of the medical and nursing profession and of the hospitals and for the repression of the outbreak of disease and conditions hazardous to the health of the people;

For an improved moral tone to the city and an uplift of expectation and faith, which will be beneficial for the hopes and aspirations of all and contribute to a well-ordered way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the House for its indulgence.

ELECTRONIC HANSARD

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege. I notice that last Tuesday for the

throne speech someone had authorized the placing of new and different lights in this legislative chamber to facilitate television coverage of the proceedings. This brings me to a point that has been debated in this House and in this committee for quite some time: whether or not we should move to have the proceedings of this House covered by the system known as electronic Hansard, which is already in place in Ottawa and in Quebec. A somewhat similar system is in place in Alberta, but that is handled through the cable companies.

You may be aware, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I would suggest to the honourable member that he is not rising on a point of privilege, and I would ask—

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, you have not heard the point I was trying to make. The point is coming, sir, and it will be right on target if you will just give me a moment to address this very serious issue.

Mr. Speaker: Make your point and I will be happy to listen to it.

Mr. Mancini: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am coming to the point, which concerns you and which concerns the privileges of this whole House.

You may recall the journals of December 4, 1980. I would like to quote Mr. Breagh from the standing procedural affairs committee, who presented the committee's report and moved its adoption. The committee's report read as follows:

"Your committee has met jointly with the standing committee on members' services to consider the matter of an electronic Hansard and, with the concurrence of the members' services committee, recommends: That the Speaker assume responsibility for the immediate introduction of permanent and continuing television and radio coverage of the Legislature under his authority and control."

That was done on December 4, 1980. As far as I can see, no action whatsoever has been taken on this motion, which was duly passed by two committees of this Legislature. Further, I wish to point out to you that in 1975 the Ontario Commission on the Legislature, the Camp commission, recommended: "That the Ontario Educational Communications Authority be asked to install the actual recording and camera

equipment and operate the recording and videotaping equipment under an annual contract with Mr. Speaker."

I want to know why no action has been taken from your office so that television coverage of the proceedings of this Legislature can be broadcast throughout the province so that the work of the members of this House can be seen by the people of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. I will be pleased to look into this matter. I do not have any firsthand knowledge of it at this time.

COMMISSION ON ELECTION CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENSES

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding with routine proceedings, I wish to inform the House that I have today laid upon the table the fifth report of the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses. I might point out for the benefit of all members that copies will be in the members' mail boxes at the post office.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY SPECIAL WARRANT

Hon. Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, in accordance with House rules, I am tabling one special warrant approved when the Legislature was not in session. Copies have been put in each member's box.

The special warrant is an order under section 4 of the Management Board of Cabinet Act, signed by the Lieutenant Governor, authorizing expenditures of an urgent nature for which no appropriation exists, and it is permissible only when the Legislature is not in session. The special warrant authorizes \$5 million for the Ontario farm adjustment assistance program. This is the part of the \$60-million program which will be claimed and flowed this fiscal year 1981-82.

2:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I wish to—
Interjection.

Mr. Peterson: The flowerpot farmer.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: That is a little bit more original. I hope the critics got copies of the statement. Do you have any objection if I proceed, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Nixon: That is a very inauspicious beginning.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: There is a very auspicious ending coming.

Mr. Speaker: Have copies been distributed?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: If there are objections, I will be glad to wait until later; if not, I would like permission to proceed.

Mr. Speaker: I think they are being distributed now.

FARM ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I wish to make some remarks respecting the special warrant for \$5 million for the Ontario farm adjustment assistance program which has just been tabled by my colleague the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. McCague).

This program was announced on December 23, 1981, and became operational on January 4, 1982. Farmers are eligible to apply for assistance under the program until December 31, 1982. Sixty million dollars has been allocated to fund the program. There are three participants in the program: eligible farmers; authorized lenders; and the government of Ontario.

To date, authorized lenders include the six leading chartered banks and one credit union. Several other credit unions, caisses populaires and trust companies have also expressed interest in the program. We expect to receive formal requests from some of them in the near future.

The program provides farm business management counselling and direct financial assistance in the form of bridge financing. It is aimed at farmers who are in need of financial restructuring, reorganizing and consolidation and who can benefit from such assistance to become financially viable. In addition to farm business management counselling, eligible farmers can take advantage of one or more of the three assistance options.

One option involves interest deferral. The lender will defer interest on loans for a period of six months, backed by a provincial guarantee, and during this time the lender will not compound interest.

A second option is an interest reduction grant on floating-rate loans and on short-term, fixed-rate loans for operating purposes only. The maximum grant will be five per cent and will not reduce the interest rate below 12 per cent.

A third option provides for an additional line of credit for operating purposes only, guaranteed by the province of Ontario and provided by the lender at prime rate of interest.

The program has three eligibility criteria under which it has operated since its inception on January 4. The program is working very well, but because there is a serious gap in farm

assistance programs, the government of Ontario made a commitment in last Tuesday's speech from the throne to broaden the 1982 Ontario farm adjustment assistance program. To meet that commitment, I am pleased to announce that we have extended the eligibility criteria so that smaller farmers may now qualify. This will be of particular benefit to farmers in northern and eastern Ontario.

The original criteria required a farmer to have a remaining equity in the farm assets of between 10 per cent and 50 per cent. The new requirement raises the equity level to 60 per cent. As before, applicants of exceptional ability will be considered below 10 per cent. Also, the original requirement that the farm must have produced food and tobacco products worth \$25,000 in 1981 has been reduced to \$12,000. The third requirement is that the farmer's interest and principal payments on outstanding debts for farming purposes must exceed 20 per cent of farm operating costs.

Farmers who were previously excluded from the program should reassess their positions in the light of these new criteria and get in touch with their lenders. In addition, my ministry has begun taking steps to inform farmers of these new provisions. Advertisements will appear in the weekly press; radio announcements are planned; and my ministry's field staff is being notified at this moment.

As mentioned earlier, this program is targeted at farmers in financial difficulty who are most dependent on farming for a living but who, with substantial assistance, could be viable in the long term. This deliberate policy decision was designed to make the most effective use of the funds available.

It also makes the program complementary to the federal small business bond program and the federal Farm Credit Corp. special assistance program by assisting those farmers in financial difficulty, but not yet in the so-called dire straits category served by the federal programs.

The shortfall in federal funding for the Farm Credit Corp. special assistance program has left a serious gap in the availability of assistance for some farmers. I have written the federal Minister of Agriculture requesting the allocation of additional funds to that program and its extension through 1982-83. I am encouraged by recent media reports which would appear to indicate that Mr. Whelan is considering a positive response to this matter.

These changes have been made in response to letters and comments I have received from

members of this Legislature, from farm organizations and from individual farmers. This action is both responsive and responsible in view of the current financial problems faced by Ontario farmers, and it clearly indicates the priority which my government places on this key sector of our economy.

CANADIAN PACIFIC TRAIN DERAILMENT

Mr. Speaker: The Solicitor General.

[Applause]

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues. I hope I will always receive that enthusiastic recognition as I continue on with my duties in this ministry.

I would like to inform the honourable members of the events which occurred in Medonte township beginning February 28 and ending March 9, and to again express my thanks to the residents of that area and those involved in the containment of the emergency.

Canadian Pacific train 405, bound from Toronto to Edmonton, derailed at 8:45 a.m. in Medonte township near Highway 400 approximately 25 miles north of Barrie. Thirty-five cars were involved in the derailment, a number of them containing combustibles and one filled with hydrofluoric acid, a toxic substance which, if spilled, would have represented a threat to the lives of residents of the area.

The Ontario Provincial Police, who did their usual superb job throughout the crisis, were on the scene almost immediately and began advising nearby residents to leave the area for their own safety. The local township of Medonte volunteer fire department responded at once, co-ordinated by Chief Jack McAllister of Barrie who, as a result of the Mississauga incident and papers developed by the Solicitor General, had developed an emergency response procedure for the county. Emergency response teams from the ministries of the Environment, Health and the Solicitor General were galvanized under Dr. David Korn, the medical officer of health for the county of Simcoe, who was informed and arrived at the scene along with myself.

I would emphasize that during the day, Sunday, at the time of assessing the actual magnitude of the fire and the consequences of the derailment, the evacuation was only advisory. Police say most of the people in the immediate vicinity did vacate after they were warned of the danger. At that time, the hoses being used by the firefighters were frozen and they were unable to pump water. The hydroflu-

oric car remained unidentified in the jumble of wreckage and the fire, which was out of control, was getting worse.

There have been reports from some CP Rail officials that stated the evacuation was unnecessary and that we overreacted. I want members of this House to know there were four CP Rail representatives at the meeting when the evacuation decision was made. In my presence they were asked more than once by the commissioner of the OPP if they had any objections. None was forthcoming.

I should also like members of this Legislature to know that the derailment was not the first incident involving train 405. Several miles up the track, and previous to the derailment, the train uncoupled because of a knuckle problem and there was some delay at that point. Neither CP Rail nor the Canadian Transport Commission saw fit to apprise us of that fact. I only found out about that earlier instance through the criminal investigation branch of the OPP, which took statements from the crew during the course of its investigation of the derailment. This was some three days after the event.

Although the first incident caused some delay, CP Rail and CTC investigators concur at this time that it did not contribute to the derailment, but that the sole cause of the derailment was a broken wheel.

On Monday, with the toxic car identified and the fire contained, the evacuation zone was reduced to an area of one square mile affecting seven families. Decisions were made at the meetings held on a daily basis at the command post, involving officials from Health, Environment, the CTC, the firefighters, CP Rail and Allied Chemicals, who were the experts on transferring the acid and the producers of this particular carload of hydrofluoric acid.

2:20 p.m.

We were not always in agreement. For instance, Dr. Korn, the Ministry of the Environment people and myself objected when, after the tracks were cleared, CP Rail announced its intention to run trains past the derailment site. The CTC, which you are aware is a federal jurisdiction, supported CP Rail. However, we asked for, and they gave us, assurances that the trains would not proceed over five miles per hour and would do so under supervision.

I would emphasize, however, that the decision-making meetings were mostly harmonious, with a great degree of co-operation from all the parties, considering the many divergent areas of concern. At those meetings we had

experts from various areas—the Ministry of Health, the CTC, CP Rail, the US Bureau of Explosives, Dow Chemical of Canada Ltd., Shell Canada Ltd., the Ministry of the Environment, police and chemical engineers—advising us constantly and updating the situation.

All the information was assessed, but uppermost in the minds of all the parties was that the decisions be made based on the maximum standards of safety we could provide, not only for the citizens of the areas but for those working on the site as well. We would then relay our decisions to the news media which disseminated the information. I would like publicly to commend the media for their co-operation and their assistance, and particularly Corporal Brad Knudds of the Ontario Provincial Police, who is a community relations officer in the Barrie detachment.

We do learn from experience. Indeed, we had experts attending only to assess our emergency response so that they could improve theirs. We plan to assess the Medonte situation with a view to incorporating lessons learned into our emergency planning legislation, to be introduced in this House later in the spring. Further, the federal government must take greater initiatives to ensure the safety of transportation of dangerous commodities.

At this point, I would like to thank the residents of Medonte township and area for their forbearance, courage and co-operation. It is worth noting that during the first evacuation most of the people had left prior to the actual evacuation order. During the first evacuation they were required to vacate a five-square-mile area, which was reduced to a one-square-mile area the morning after the order was given. During the second evacuation, again involving a five-square-mile area, with an additional five-square-mile cautionary area, of more than 1,700 residents who were contacted or advised to leave the area, only eight people refused to go.

The evacuations were carried out at such times when the experts would have completed maximum safety preparations for themselves, after preparing the site for the transfer of the acid. It was also done late in the morning when we had the fewest people in the area to evacuate. Consideration was also given to the rural makeup of the area and farmers were given time to care for their livestock before the evacuation occurred. Also, at each stage of the evacuation, as it was completed, residents could return to their homes except in the minimal area which was at greatest risk.

My primary concern at the site was public safety. When asked by the media, I did not address the issue of compensation. When it was discussed with the Premier (Mr. Davis), he acknowledged there was no way the 3,200 residents of Medonte township could afford through their taxes to mount the massive undertaking needed to contain such an emergency. I have assured the reeve that none of the costs incurred by provincial agencies will be passed on to the township. The province has also said it will assume the firefighting costs incurred.

I would like to urge CP Rail to act as the good corporate citizen they advertise they are and reimburse those evacuees who incurred out-of-pocket expenses, particularly the seven families who were out of their homes for more than a week. It would not cost anything near the amount of money the company paid out in the Mississauga emergency. CP should also consider some form of compensation to the township of Medonte, associated with the costs of fighting such a fire. There are hundreds of Medonte townships along the railway lines in this country and they simply cannot afford the costs incurred by such accidents.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, my heartfelt thanks go out to the ambulance workers, the work crews on the site, the people from Environment and Health who were so invaluable, the Red Cross, individual citizens who provided food and shelter, and other organizations, such as the Ontario Provincial Police, who carried out the evacuation and patrolled the area to prevent vandalism and theft.

I reserve a special thanks to the bravest of the brave, the volunteer firefighters; the families who stood behind them; their employers who acknowledged their firefighting duties; and the other firefighters who battled the emergency through a long week, mostly in freezing weather and with a display of courage, dedication and durability that is quite simply indescribable. It was an effort by a group of Ontario citizens that I, for one, shall never forget.

Mr. Speaker, I would now ask members in this House to acknowledge three visitors to your gallery, whose actions and support during the crisis were an inspiration to all of us: Ingram Amos, reeve of Medonte township; Fire Chief Ken Hamilton, who is a volunteer firefighter; and Dr. David Korn, the county's medical officer of health.

ORAL QUESTIONS BUDGET

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, my first question is to the Treasurer. I am sure I speak on behalf of all the members of this House who have been touched by the economic problems suffered by their constituents in the past several months.

As you are aware, sir, in the last three weeks alone about 4,700 layoffs have been announced in this province, including Polysar, 1,600; Algoma Steel, 600; Hussmann Store Equipment, 170; and the list goes on and on. Today 70 Gulf layoffs were confirmed, with 600 more rumoured to be coming. In view of the gravity of this situation, of which I am sure the Treasurer is aware, will he bring in a budget next week, or very soon thereafter, to deal in a significant way with these economic problems?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The rules of the House do not permit me to bring in a budget that quickly.

Mr. Peterson: The rule is eight days—

Mr. Nixon: When are you bringing it in?

Mr. Peterson: When is the Treasurer going to bring it in? Obviously the Treasurer does not think it is very important and that he can weasel out on a procedural technicality. But let me point out he is aware that there are 375,000 unemployed in this province; that 100,000 manufacturing jobs were lost in the couple of months; that 68,000 people have left this province in the last two years; and that at present Canada's employment centres list barely more than 13,000 job vacancies.

What is the Treasurer going to do about this? When is he going to bring in his budget? Does he not feel he has some responsibility?

Hon. F. S. Miller: First, let me sincerely congratulate my colleague on making the move from Treasury critic to leader of the party. On that side of the House it may be a common thing to see that happen; on this side of the House it seldom, if ever, happens.

Interjections.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Only the Treasurers who do not do anything.

Hon. F. S. Miller: There must have been a lot.

The question of preparing for the budget is one I have been taking very seriously. I have done little else but prepare for a budget since returning from the Christmas break. I have met with about 40 organized groups in my office to date. Those meetings were not simply matters of a few minutes; they lasted for up to two or two

and a half hours. During them I have received the benefit of their predictions of economic change and of their interpretations of what their specific industries need.

Had this kind of approach been used by our friends in Ottawa, we would not have had the disastrous results of the November 12 budget. Try as he may, my friend knows he is tarred with the brush of his Ottawa friends—he is going to say he is not, but he is. They have brought forward one of the most disastrous budgets for the economy of this province.

What am I going to do?

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: First, I am going to implore the federal Finance minister, as many Canadians from the union movement, from industry and from farms are doing, to realize that the economy of this country has gone downhill since he dreamed up his budget and to change it. Then I am prepared to make my budget—

Interjection.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The member had her chance and she lost.

Ms. Coppins: People are not moving out of the country, they are moving out of the province.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. All members will have an equal opportunity to ask questions. Does the Treasurer wish to continue?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I will be ready quite quickly with my budget because most of the work is done, but I am sincerely hoping that the federal government will change, and I am prepared to adjust my budget to complement the actions it may take.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Cooke: The throne speech on Tuesday stated we now have had more than a decade of slow growth in this province, which happens to be approximately as long as the present Premier (Mr. Davis) has been in that position. Is it not about time the Treasurer looked at the economic sectors where he could get involved and create jobs—the auto sector and mining machinery for example? Is it not time he got involved in the economy in a positive way instead of political intervention like the BILD document?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I assume I will hear a lot from the honourable member who has just spoken because I understand he is now my official critic. I have been honoured to have had good critics from that party—and that does not

say I did not have good critics from the other party—who had very thoughtful and penetrating questions.

It intrigues me to hear him talk about us taking action in specific sectors like the automobile sector—one which he is surely familiar with—when he knows we have been doing it. He knows he has consistently objected in the House to this government's help to that industry.

Mr. Peterson: The Treasurer knows that under the rules of this House we have eight days for throne speech debate. That would say to the Treasurer he could bring in the budget the day thereafter or shortly thereafter.

I am sure also he could get universal consent in this House to bring in the budget immediately if he is ready. We feel strongly and I am sure my colleagues do—

An hon. member: Tomorrow morning.

Mr. Peterson: —and I implore him to move immediately on this question. What relief is he going to provide for those hundreds of thousands who are unemployed in this province right now? We cannot wait.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have been to Ottawa twice in the last week. I attended an interesting meeting on this topic there with colleagues from Windsor—from the United Auto Workers, Mr. White. It may seem an unholy or unlikely alliance because along with Mr. White were the presidents of most of Canada's major vehicle manufacturing companies and the president of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association. All of them tried to point out that automobiles really are not a regional industry and are not a dying industry, and they had to take some action to protect jobs here in Canada for Canadian citizens by accepting Ontario's recommendation that there be 85 per cent Canadian content in vehicles sold in this country.

INTEREST RATES

Mr. Peterson: Obviously the Treasurer has now picked a new adversary, the automobile consumer of the United States, to blame his problems on. But let me ask him a new question about the small business sector.

More than 7,000 small businesses surveyed by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business recently revealed they could have created 14,000 jobs in 1981 but in fact laid off more than 9,000 people. They are going bankrupt in record numbers, as the Treasurer is aware. I would ask him to bring in an emergency interest-rate relief

program for the small business sector, particularly when it has the potential to hire so many people in this province at this time.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I was looking at the differing opinions on ways to assist people with interest rates espoused during the recent leadership campaign and I would hope other members of the front bench accept the measures the Leader of the Opposition is putting forward. I will read back into the record some of the comments the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) had on his thoughts on interest-rate policy before too long, but they are just a bit divergent.

What I can say is that all 10 provinces went to the first ministers' meeting in January and pleaded with the federal government to use its powers to bring a Canadian interest-rate policy to Canada. It could do this mainly by doing one thing—increasing confidence in the government of Canada so that the flight of capital out of this country, which is depressing our dollar and raising our interest rates, would be reversed. Regardless of whether it was a socialist province, a Conservative province, a Sacred province—there are no Liberal provinces—they came through and said the same thing, in public and in private. We do have to recognize that the authority to do that is vested in the Bank of Canada. I hope the member accepts that.

Mr. Peterson: I will agree with the Treasurer that some of the other provinces, indeed the majority, had the same view he did. But a number of those provinces are undertaking specific programs of their own to help their own people and there are things he can do here in Ontario. That same survey said that by the end of this year some 80,000 small businesses in this province could fold unless there is some immediate short-term relief.

I believe the Treasurer has a responsibility to our people here. While he is waiting for Ottawa, the people in Ontario are waiting for him. What is he going to do about it?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I have been reviewing the tax changes made by Mr. MacEachen on November 12 as they affect small business in an attempt to see whether anything I did with the fiscal resources at my disposal could undo what he did.

Ontario has a 20 per cent investment tax credit for small businesses in this country to help them avoid corporate tax payable and to help them build up their productive assets. It is only in its second year. It sunsets April 22 of this

present year unless we extend it through our budgetary measures. We had a small take-up the first year; we had a large take-up the second year. And what happened? Through a simple change in reducing capital cost allowance by half in Ottawa, Mr. MacEachen hung out to dry just about every small businessman who had made a capital investment. Everything we had done was wiped out. Our money goes and it goes to Ottawa.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, it is nice to see the change in the last couple of months. The Conservative government of Ontario now agrees with us that interest rates at the federal level have to be brought down. Does the Treasurer not remember that when he was asked in this House by this party if he would urge the federal Liberals to lower the interest rates, he warned us it would mean an outflow of capital and a lowering of the Canadian dollar and that he would not recommend that? Does he forget already that he made those statements in this House?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I do not forget very many of the things I say but I usually remember the context in which I said them. That is something opposition members do not always remember when they rephrase or paraphrase them or shoot them back from the hip. I am hoping to see the member's leader down here some time soon. I see him up top there. It is probably the highest view he will ever have of this House. He may see it quite differently down here. He would rather be in the benches so we thought we would create a new riding for him: Benches-Would-Be. He said he would not parachute into a riding and Benches-Would-Be sounds very much like that, so we thought we would put them together—

Mr. Speaker: Now would the Treasurer answer the question please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, why can I not have some fun too?

Mr. Sweeney: Because it is a serious matter, that's why.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The difference between me and some of the members here is that I do believe it is serious—very much so. And I am a lot closer to small business than many members of this House; not all, but many. I do recognize the validity of those problems. And yes, the key ingredient in having an interest rate policy that will stem an outflow of capital is to have investors believe their money is safe in this country, that there is a fair chance to earn

something. That is what the federal government destroyed and the member should be agreeing with me.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker: The Treasurer is blaming the federal government for all these ills when his own federal finance critic, Michael Wilson, agrees with the federal Liberals. He should start explaining that if he is so noble on these issues.

I want to know right now when the Treasurer is going to have a budget and what kind of relief programs he is going to have for people who need help, including small businessmen, home owners and farmers.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, as soon as I have the date chosen I will inform the House.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer about interest rates. Can the Treasurer explain why, when the throne speech says high interest rates "cause homes and farms to be lost" and that the human and social costs arising from such a high interest-rate policy are unacceptable, his leader and Premier copped out at the press conference and said the province could not take unilateral action in that area?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, at the risk of interpreting remarks by the Premier, who is absent today for reasons that I am sure the member is aware of, I cannot. But I will be glad to check with him to make sure we are both on the same wave length. My assumption would be that the unilateral cost and the unilateral effect would be relatively insignificant.

One of the great things about economic policy is that it is far more effective when governments go in tandem than when they go in opposite directions. One of the problems we have found is that our federal government in Ottawa does not go in the same directions as perhaps the major government to the south, for good or bad reasons. The fact is we do not get the same kind of results; we get opposing results.

One of the reasons I have been considering opting out of the personal income tax field on behalf of the province of Ontario is that I find the tax rules, such as those the member is talking about, are getting so far out of whack from what we consider to be acceptable that we wonder if we can continue to use their system in the interests of equitable taxation.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, does the Treasurer not realize that if his government floated a

\$150-million housing development bond for a 20-year term at the current rate of interest of 17 per cent and put it into a housing stimulation program in Ontario, he could create approximately 32,000 jobs in this province and gain for his own treasury revenue amounting to about \$11 million?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I believe the throne speech implied that measures would be taken for rental housing and for other housing in general. I hope the member will have the confidence to wait a while to see the effects of it.

I want to point out one simple piece of arithmetic. Those kinds of bonds function on one simple assumption: that the benefit from a tax point of view is taken and given to the borrower rather than to the lender. The lender does not pay tax on most of them. Of 148 points of tax collected in Ontario 100 points go to the federal government and 48 to Ontario. The member can recognize, then, that the co-operation of the federal government in any program is twice as valuable in its impact as Ontario's.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer has asked us to be patient, but the 375,000 people who are out of work are running out of patience. In his answers so far today the Treasurer has said the federal government, the Ontario government and others should be following the same kind of economic policy. Then he said that when major governments are not following the same policy there are problems. The federal government has tied its interest rate to that of the United States and in his budget last year the Treasurer agreed that inflation was the biggest problem.

Will the Treasurer tell us now whether he believes that inflation is the biggest problem, or is it unemployment? And when can the disasters to human beings in terms of unemployment be dealt with by the Treasurer doing something in his provincial responsibility rather than flagellating Ottawa, the United States and everybody else? When will he accept his responsibility for those 375,000 people who are out of work?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I think the record will show this government not only has accepted its responsibility but that the people of Ontario have believed for many years it has accepted its responsibility. They continue to put their confidence in us at a time like this and, quite honestly, they know where the troubles are.

When we went to Ottawa we were not just

negative or critical. Ontario put forward—and I hope the member got a copy of it—a comprehensive set of recommendations to improve the economy. I think there were 43 of them. I will be pleased to send the member a copy in case he did not get one during the Christmas break. It was very well received by representatives of all points of view and is well worth looking at. We have not yet had any indication from the feds that they are going to accept it.

Mr. Wildman: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware that approximately one third of the lumber workers in northern Ontario are out of work and that the federal-provincial program announced recently for forest improvement is only going to provide a few hundred jobs, at this stage at least, no matter what is being promised in expansion in the throne speech? If that is the case, why is the minister not prepared to commit the funds necessary for the accelerated housing starts that would provide jobs, not only to those lumber workers but to construction workers right across this province, providing the housing the people of this province need so badly?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I was very proud of my colleague, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope), when he and the federal minister for unemployment got together at Ontario's suggestion and put into action a principle I hope the member would espouse. That principle was it is better to pay somebody to be out working than sitting at home drawing a benefit.

The member can complain about it not being enough but the fact is that simply by getting co-operation from the federal government, for which I thank them, we got double the benefit we would have had if Ontario had tried to do it alone. Ontario was prepared to, but we got their benefit. I hope that is a model for quite a few more co-operative actions.

SALMONELLA VICTIM

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Health. Can the Minister of Health assure us that every possible step was taken which may have prevented the tragic illness of Stephanie Burrows in the salmonella outbreak in Peterborough Civic Hospital?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, may I say on this very serious matter that the ministry has aided the medical officer of health in that area, in whom we have a great deal of confidence. I

know all those practitioners carrying on their practices in that area have a great deal of confidence in the MOH there as well.

We dispatched an epidemiologist from the Ministry of Health to assist the MOH in Peterborough in investigating those very serious problems. A report is currently being prepared by Dr. Carlson in conjunction with the MOH to present to the MOH in Peterborough.

The short answer to the member's question is that it appears at this time all the appropriate measures have been taken and there is no immediate threat of any further problems there. I will have to wait until I have received the report to comment any further on the question.

Mr. Foulds: I know the difficulty the minister has in not having the complete report at this time, but he obviously has some information. Can he explain why the medical officer of health, upon learning the confirmation of the original salmonella case, did not undertake the responsibility of contacting the parents of other babies who may have been in a situation where they were exposed to the salmonella outbreak?

Why were there seven days of sheer abdication of responsibility, seven days of neglect, between December 29 and January 6, when the Burrows baby had to be brought in to the hospital before anybody knew the outbreak was possible and real?

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, as the member has indicated, a complete analysis of all the events will have to await receipt of a report by me. In essence the report is not to me; it is a report going to the medical officer of health in Peterborough. The practitioners in Peterborough have placed a high degree of confidence in the medical officer of health in that area and the hospital appears to have a great deal of confidence in that medical officer of health. The questions the member asks, in fairness, are the responsibility of and lie within the competence of what is considered to be a very competent medical officer of health for that area.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, since the minister has indicated so clearly his confidence in the medical officer of health, is he in any way indicating a lack of confidence in either the medical or the administrative staff of the hospital? Is he thinking in any way of using the rather Draconian new powers given by the House, over some protest, to his predecessor to

move into a hospital where there is some indication its services are less than up to our standards?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, the short and clear answer is no. May I say that—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I will allow the acting leader to—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, I prefer to wait.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain why to this day none of the families who have experienced an exposure to salmonella has been contacted by any of the investigators of the three separate investigations that are going on? Why have the families not been contacted to find out what they know of the situation and how it came to their attention?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize that the medical officer of health is, as the member knows, responsible for containing the outbreak of any disease such as this. I am informed the MOH has taken all the appropriate steps to trace the history that led up to these incidents and he has also taken appropriate steps to ensure the containment of this incident—to restrict it to these two or three incidents in the hospital.

This is my understanding, and it is all I can offer at this time, because it is not the direct responsibility of my ministry. It is the responsibility of the MOH, in whom we have confidence—

Mr. Foulds: Kids were being exposed to salmonella because no one took the responsibility. It was a breakdown in communication and responsibility.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: With respect, the member has made a serious allegation. I would be as concerned as he would be if all of those investigations and questions were not asked. I understand—

Mr. McClellan: Don't you have the report?

Mr. Mackenzie: You have the report now.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The members should relax. I do not have the report. It is not ready yet.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Those members may accuse me of lying or misleading the House; they are free to do that—well, they are not free to do that. But I want to say very clearly—

Mr. McClellan: Your officials said you had the report.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I think it is important in a serious matter like this that fears not be raised unnecessarily in the mind of the public and conversely that we not mislead the public into thinking the situation safer than it is. That is my concern.

As I address the question, or, more properly, as the medical officer of health addresses the question of the procedures followed both before and after the outbreak, I think it is important that while we check to make sure proper procedures were followed it is also incumbent on all of us to make sure unnecessary fears on the other side are not raised because of any allegations that proper investigations were not carried out.

I can assure the member the questions he has raised will be raised specifically by us with the MOH in Peterborough, and I will see if we can provide that information.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I hope to clarify the record, if not to correct it. Dr. Carlson from the ministry, who conducted the investigation, has advised us the investigation is complete and the report has been given to the minister.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Come on, that is just irresponsible. I believe Dr. Carlson has indicated to the member's office that she has finished her work and is in the process of preparing the report.

Mr. McClellan: No, no.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I believe the member asked her whether it had been given to the minister yet and whether he had seen it. She said, "No, it is in the process of being prepared." She has completed her investigations, has worked with the medical officer of health and is preparing that report for delivery to the MOH in Peterborough. With respect, those are the facts.

JOB CREATION

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Treasurer in regard to job creation. The Treasurer in his usual way did not bother to respond as to whether he saw inflation or unemployment as the largest problem in the economic life of Ontario.

My question is that both the Minister of Industry and Trade Development (Mr. Walker) and the Treasurer have stated that creating jobs is up to the private sector, yet the supply-side economic theory that underlines this faith in the private sector's ability to create jobs is condi-

tional upon reduction of public spending and public borrowing and the release of these dollars for private investment.

Given that fact, the Suncor purchase raised Ontario's debt to at least \$1.4 billion, way beyond the \$1 billion level the Treasurer once declared in his budget was unacceptable. How does he expect his laissez-faire conservatism to create one job in this province, let alone make a dent in the 375,000 who are currently jobless?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, the laissez-faire, lazy, lazy—

Mr. T. P. Reid: Does it ring a bell?

Hon. F. S. Miller: It sounds like lazy liberalism. Lazy liberalism is better. To answer the member's question, the one I missed, I am sure the perceived problem that is paramount in the eyes of the public is unemployment. I do not know how one easily divorces the problem of unemployment from the problem of inflation because the problem of inflation causes the high interest rates; the high interest rates cause the lack of demand for major consumer items like houses, cars, appliances and furniture, which in turn puts people out of work.

One cannot be overly simplistic and put a problem in one corner and say it is not related to the others. I have too much respect for my colleague's knowledge, intelligence, wit—I may regret all this later—to assume he does not understand all that. The other point my friend glosses over is that his party went around this province telling the world we are 10 out of 10. Yes, we are 10 out of 10 when it comes to spending. We have the lowest spending of any provincial government in Canada as a percentage of our gross provincial product. We are 10 out of 10.

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: What a weak sister; you are just impossible.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I can finally hear you now your moustache is gone.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the Treasurer please proceed?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The fact remains, Mr. Speaker, there is another piece of information that gets buried when we talk about cash requirements. It is not deficit. I am sure the leader of the member's party has talked to me many times about the difference between deficit and cash requirement. Most of the people of this province believe that the Suncor invest-

ment was a wise investment on behalf of the people of this province. If the members do not think so—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Has the minister completed his answer? A supplementary, the member for Rainy River.

3 p.m.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, the budget of the Treasurer is over \$2 billion; Industry and, now, Trade Development is \$122 million; the "bilge" program was supposed to be \$76 million of new money and not all of the old crap he threw in there. All he has been able to tell us today is that he is waiting on Ottawa to do something.

Where are the programs that are going to put the people of Ontario back to work? Can the minister tell me why he has over 900 people in his ministry? His government has been in power for 40 years and yet he cannot come up with one constructive idea to create some jobs in this province. What the hell is he doing?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, all those nice things I said five seconds ago have gone out the window on the first question.

We are doing quite a bit. For example, the program the member likes to make fun of already has about \$1.1 billion of new commitment of money in it. It was at \$868 million before we made a major commitment to forest management agreements recently, which will be coming out as time goes on. We are well past the \$750 million that I had allocated out of Ontario's share.

Just this week we were very pleased to see a small but, I think, important step from the federal government in that it is now cost-sharing one small program with us. I hope it is the first of many. I saw Mr. MacEachen before the first ministers' meeting. I saw Mr. Olson. I pointed out that I believed it was still possible within the framework of federal-provincial relations, deteriorated as they have been, to make sure that we did work together and that we, as politicians, had the responsibility to see that it happened. I am going to keep on working until it does.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, the minister says constantly that there is not much he can do. Has he examined the five-point program my party leader has put forward? One of the aspects of it is a \$50-million program to small business which would allow a 50 per cent grant-50 per cent loan to some of the small businessmen who are going out of business because of the Liberal high interest rates.

There is something he can do for the small businessman to save jobs and to save small business. Why does he not do it?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have the five-point program of the member's leader right here in my hand. It is on yellow paper, which is characteristic.

I am sure as time goes on the member's leader will know what we do in this House, but until then he should probably save some of his comments until he has had a chance to find that we have done a lot of the things he is suggesting.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, last year the Treasurer's budget suggested that the unemployment rate would be 6.6 per cent and it is now 7.6 per cent. Since he hinges most of his economic policy on the "bilge" program, can he tell us in advance of the budget, whenever he gets around to bringing it down, what his projections are for unemployment in Ontario for the next year? Secondly, how many jobs will be created by the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program in 1982-83?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I can get the figures on the number of jobs. The member will be surprised to find out how many there are. I cannot repeat them off the top of my head, but I have had the estimates of the jobs in the projects created to date. Those are the only ones that count because I am not going to fall into the trap of saying \$750 million made X jobs. It is very easy to do; no one could prove I was wrong or right.

The purpose of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, which many of the members seem to have missed, was to put certain infrastructure in place that allowed many of our industries to compete better in technology. This week the last two technology centres were announced. The one down in Chatham will deal with the question of food processing and agricultural equipment. It is welcomed by the people of Chatham and was worked for hard by a member from that area. I want to say that will service the agricultural industry and will be well recognized. The second is in the riding of Brock.

Mr. Kerrio: Niagara region.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Niagara region, but in the riding of Brock, where we have a member who has been known to concern himself about the problems of those ridings in that area. Those

ridings have learned to lean on him as the true representative here in Queen's Park for all the people in the St. Catharines region.

Mr. Kerrio: He is pretty lonely down there.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I need a favour of the member.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I want to say that because of all this we now have a member for Lincoln too, and we are going to have more and more members there. The member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) should worry about it. The member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) may have made it to the front row, but he may not last long.

STOUFFVILLE WATER QUALITY

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. The minister went to some great pains during a briefing on Tuesday with the press regarding the Stouffville water situation to warn everyone concerned against making loose-lipped allegations against the staff of his ministry.

Why is it that the minister took it upon himself to attack the personal credibility of Mr. Smarda, by making the loose-lipped allegation that the Alberta lab was disclaiming any responsibility for any of the findings of his report, when the Alberta lab is denying that comment and saying that it fully supports the findings of his report?

Why is it that the minister failed to respond fully to the very serious and definitely not loose-lipped allegations made by Dr. Cummins that 16 of the figures attributed to him in the first interim report on the Stouffville mutagenicity study are different from the figures he supplied to the ministry?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I will try to deal with both the original question and the supplementary in my response.

First of all, I think it is important that the honourable member, who was not present during the briefing, understand the situation and get his information correct. The remark I made, and which I will reiterate any time the member would like me to, was an honest response to some of the things that were being irresponsibly alleged about staff in my ministry.

I want to assure him it was not directed at any member of the citizens' group. I view the citizens in this situation as the most vulnerable people of all because they are caught in a situation of conflicting information, most of

which, on the part of the science that has been presented to them, has not withstood scrutiny and has not stood up under corroborative testing by other laboratories, not only our own.

I will say once again, here in the House, that if individuals are going to besmirch the reputation of professional employees in my ministry, I think it is quite appropriate that they, like any other citizens in our society, have the right to take action either to protect their reputation or to seek a withdrawal of those kinds of allegations. I am not going to back away from that, but I want to assure the member it is not directed towards the citizens. Just because I or employees of my ministry are in public life does not mean that people can act irresponsibly without backing up their statements.

3:10 p.m.

With respect to Mr. Smarda, from what I have read in the press I understand that the laboratory in Alberta since Tuesday apparently has indicated it now stands behind Mr. Smarda's report. I can assure the member my comment was based upon a telephone conversation between a trusted and senior person on my ministry staff with a person purported to be the head of the laboratory in Calgary. As I understand it, the laboratory head was not only disclaiming any responsibility for Mr. Smarda's report, but there were indications he was about to fire Mr. Smarda. He may contradict that now, but I was not fabricating.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I was not fabricating. Mr. Smarda's employer may have changed his position.

With respect to Dr. Cummins' allegation about changes, I would welcome specifics on that. He has corresponded with me, as he indicated a few days ago in the press he intended to. In the letter I have received, he still does not spell out what changes he was referring to.

My staff, along with staff of the other laboratories involved in this—it is not a research project as Dr. Cummins has described it but rather a testing program—received from Dr. Cummins, in a meeting at which I understand he was present, his initial data on his tests. Dr. Cummins then chose to withdraw that information because of some concern he had that the data did not make sense and he wanted to redo some of the tests.

Some of his data was called in via telephone. Whether he is suggesting that there were some

errors in the transcription I do not know, because he has not spelled out what specifically has concerned him. However, I would impress upon the member the importance of one significant admission on his part. He does say that in so far as he is concerned none of those changes would in any way have changed the conclusions of the report. He is not attacking the conclusions of the report with respect to negative responses to the Ames test. I do not know what the specific detail is, but apparently it is not sufficiently important to change the conclusions.

Mr. Charlton: Perhaps the minister could find it within his integrity to point out to the House that Dr. Cummins is attacking the report because of the way in which it was presented and the time the testing was done. There are very serious questions as to validity.

Can the minister tell us, if he is so concerned about the citizens of Stouffville, why it is the regional staff of his ministry find it necessary to put citizens active in the water question at Stouffville through very lengthy grilling, some of it lasting for several hours? The ministry was trying to get them publicly to denounce the findings of private testing that has been done. Is that how the minister wants to go about re-establishing the credibility of and the trust in his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Again, I think it is important that one gets one's facts straight. First, with respect to Dr. Cummins' concern about the timing of the test, the fact that the samples were being collected during the winter, his view on that subject is not a generally held scientific view.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: He is going to be fired too from what I hear.

Hon. Mr. Norton: What Dr. Cummins is saying is generally accepted with respect to surface waters—waters in streams and at the surface—

Mr. Charlton: The ministry is supposed to be testing to see if anything leached out of the dump.

Hon. Mr. Norton: —but it is not so with respect to ground water. What we are testing is ground water where there is no significant change in temperature from season to season.

It is also important that Dr. Cummins did not mention until one day this week that in January, I am told, at a meeting of scientists involved in this program, in order to allay his fears they agreed to do nonwinter testing. But we cannot

do nonwinter testing during the winter. The citizens had obviously wanted us to proceed without delay and we happened to be living during the winter season. Dr. Cummins until very recently indicated his concern, but he did not indicate that there had already been agreement that there would be nonwinter testing. I am not sure why he overlooked that important fact.

I assume, and can only assume, the alleged grilling relates to the situation that arose after the evident gaps and errors in the series of tests that had been presented to the citizens. It is my understanding that privately they acknowledge there were some problems. I felt it was important that the record be set straight. I had asked our staff, before we go and appear to be attacking their credibility, first of all to give them the opportunity, if they choose, to protect their own credibility with their constituency in that community.

I am not out to shoot down the citizens' group; I recognize their concern. So that was presented to them. A meeting was held. I do not believe there was any grilling. I do believe that the option was presented to them, if they chose to do that, with the knowledge that if they did not, I felt compelled to set the record straight with respect to some of the testing.

Let me just use this as a final example. The laboratory in the United States that did the testing for arsenic, which created a great deal of anxiety in that community and got a great deal of publicity, now admits it erred. They were testing for sodium chloride; they had not made the appropriate adjustments. They have alarmed many people in this province and the record has to be set straight on those sorts of things.

I think the one thing that comes through loud and clear, if you take the time to sit down or have your researchers sit down and look over all the work that has been done, if you look at the facts, is that of all the laboratories that have been involved in this, the one that has been consistently accurate, open with its results and correct in its interpretations, is the ministry's laboratory. We have the finest staff one will find anywhere in North America and the finest laboratory anywhere in North America. As I said the other day, we are not perfect but we sure are damn good.

Mr. T. P. Reid: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I think we have just seen an abuse of the rules of the House. I suggest that the

minister's answer should be taken as a statement and that time be put back into the question period.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, may I respond to that?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Very briefly.

Hon. Mr. Norton: In fairness, Mr. Speaker, I view the questions that were asked by the members across the floor as very important questions. I think it is also important that I be allowed time to answer them appropriately and fully in the interests of making the public aware of the responses as well. I suggest that if the answer had been what they wanted to hear and, in fact, not what they did not want to hear— In other words, if I answer the questions well, they want me to sit down—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think you have responded in full. It is my opinion that this is a matter of urgent public concern and I think the minister was quite proper in replying to the question in the way he did.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I noted the minister wished to instill in the minds of the public around Stouffville the idea that they should have trust in him and in his ministry, yet he takes the time to allege that perhaps the other two persons who did tests, Dr. Cummins and Mr. Smarda, have probably followed the path of those tests that were done for arsenic.

I think it is incumbent on him to set the record straight in that Dr. Cummins has had very serious difficulties with respect to the way the minister conducted the sampling at those wells. Dr. Cummins' concern also comes from the fact that he is a member of the research staff, but he did not receive until Thursday evening the report which was released to the public by the minister on Friday at noon. Therefore, he did not have time to review and consider it.

3:20 p.m.

If it is the official policy of the Ministry of the Environment to undertake joint studies with various members of the profession, and Dr. Cummins is a respected member of the Canadian scientific community, is it the minister's policy to release a report without the consent, approval and permission of one of those involved in the study?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, that was a very long question. It is very important that the honourable member understand that all the laboratories in this testing program were follow-

ing a protocol which had been agreed to by all of the scientists involved. I was not involved in the agreement, but the scientists from each of the laboratories, including Dr. Cummins, were present at a meeting where they agreed upon the protocol.

The member says he was concerned about the collection of the samples. Let me point out to the member that it is my understanding that a number of Dr. Cummins' specific recommendations were embodied in that protocol which was agreed to, including—

Mr. Elston: Some were in the report; some were not.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The member raised the question about how it was collected. One of the things Dr. Cummins requested was that the samples be collected in his vessels, and they were. I do not know what all of his concerns are. I just wish he would be specific and spell them out so that we could address each one individually.

With respect to the copy of the report, Dr. Cummins himself has indicated in some of his interviews with the press that he was away for a period of several days at a conference in the United States. In addition, the problem of meeting the time commitment which had been given to citizens and others arose from the fact that he redid some of his testing and ended up submitting the results by telephone.

Dr. Cummins did have a copy of the report a day in advance and, to the best of my knowledge, made no attempt to communicate to anyone in my ministry that he took exception to any of the contents of that report during that day between Thursday and Friday when he would have had an opportunity to do so.

RACCOON DOG FARM

Mr. Pollock: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. There is an established Finn raccoon dog farm in my area. Both the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters have voiced their disapproval of this operation in that area. Also, the township of Madoc has forwarded to me a resolution asking that both the province and the federal government take steps to buy this operation out. What is the Minister of Agriculture and Food doing about this?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: We are going to move them to St. Catharines.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Agriculture and Food will ignore the interjections.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member's raising the point because I know he has been on to this problem right from the point that it became a public issue. He came to see me about it a few weeks ago.

I have looked into the matter of these animals, which are apparently a cross between a dog and a raccoon, although closer to a raccoon, and are raised for their fur. I found that even before they were allowed into the country by the federal authorities, my predecessor and staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food made it very clear to the federal government that they should not be allowed into Canada. Just last October the federal authorities finally got around to changing the regulations so that no more can come into Canada.

However, there is this farm near Madoc, which I see is of great interest to the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston), about which officials of my ministry, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the federal government met with the owners within the last couple of weeks, I think it was. The indications are that the federal people clearly understand it was their responsibility and their decision. They are apparently preparing an offer, or a position that they will offer, to the owners of this fur farm at a subsequent meeting. I will be glad to keep the honourable member and the members of the House informed.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister could tell us if a permit to keep those animals was given by the fish and game department of his ministry. Could the minister also tell us whether an arrangement was tentatively arrived at between the federal and provincial governments on the issue of buying out that farm and whether his ministry backed out of it at the last minute, as the reports I have in my office indicate?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: First of all, there is no such thing as a fish and game branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The minister has been well trained.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: And that took a whole day.

Second, to repeat it for the record, the federal officials were told in very clear terms last year by my colleague the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Henderson), when he had responsibility for my ministry, that it was not in the public interest, not in the interest of this country, to allow these animals into the

country. Notwithstanding that, they went ahead and did it and then they changed the regulations.

Mr. Boudria: Did your government give a permit?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: My government did not offer to buy them out. That is the responsibility of the federal government.

Ms. Copps: Who gave the permit?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: We are inspecting and licensing under the legislation of our ministry because it is a fur farm. Now that they have been let into the country by the federal authorities, we have no authority whatsoever to stop them from entering the country, let alone the province.

REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Mr. Treleaven from the standing committee on administration of justice presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill with certain amendments:

Bill 6, An Act to revise the Business Corporations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for third reading.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Shymko from the standing committee on social development presented the committee's report which was read as follows and adopted:

Your committee begs to report the following bill with certain amendments:

Bill 175, An Act to amend the McMichael Canadian Collection Act.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for committee of the whole House.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mr. T. P. Reid from the standing committee on public accounts presented the committee's report as follows and moved its adoption:

In consideration of the decision of the federal government to change the existing established programs financing legislation and the direct effect this will have upon our health, social welfare and post-secondary education programs, your committee recommends:

That the government of Ontario consider

proposing as soon as possible the necessary time for a debate in the Legislature to provide opportunity for a full examination by the members of the provincial parliament of the impact of the proposed changes and that the government of Ontario request the government of Canada to rescind its decision to act unilaterally on this fiscal arrangement by reopening its negotiation with the provinces in order to restore a climate of co-operative federalism, ensure maintenance of existing levels of services in health, social welfare and post-secondary education and to avoid undue increases in fiscal and economic disparities.

On motion by Mr. T. P. Reid, the debate was adjourned.

3:30 p.m.

MOTIONS

PRIVATE BILLS

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that, because of the interruption of the private bill legislation occasioned by the prorogation of the first session of the 32nd Parliament, the following applications for private legislation made during the said first session be considered during the present session without giving further notice of the applications and without lodging further declarations proving publication:

1. The applications for private legislation related to Bills Pr8, Pr12, Pr18, Pr20, Pr22 and Pr28, which received first reading in the said first session;

2. The applications by Frontier College, the city of North York, the city of Barrie and the city of Toronto, related to demolition controls, and the city of Windsor for which the advertising was completed in 1981;

that the application of the city of Mississauga related to development levies made during the said first session be considered during the present session upon giving further notice and upon lodging of a further declaration proving publication;

that the fees paid by the applicants with respect to the said application in 1981 be applicable for the continuation of the applications in the present session.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that tomorrow the House may resolve itself into committee of supply.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SURROGATE COURTS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Wells, first reading of Bill 2, An Act to amend the Surrogate Courts Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move first reading of this bill. It will amend the Surrogate Courts Act to permit probate and other matters in a county in which the office of surrogate court judge is temporarily vacant to be dealt with by a surrogate court judge outside the county, with the approval of the chief judge of the county and district courts. This will save unnecessary expense and delay in surrogate court matters.

CHARITIES ACCOUNTING AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Elgie, first reading of Bill 3, An Act to amend the Charities Accounting Act.

Motion agreed to.

MORTMAIN AND CHARITABLE USES REPEAL ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Elgie, first reading of Bill 4, An Act to repeal the Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce these two bills. They received first reading during the last session but because of time constraints were not proceeded with. The first is a bill to repeal the Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act, the second, and a complementary proposal, is a bill to amend the Charities Accounting Act.

The repeal of the mortmain provisions to the Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act was recommended by both the Ontario Law Reform Commission and the Ontario select committee on company law. The law of mortmain has to do with the ownership of land. Basically it prohibits the holding of land by corporations in perpetuity unless they are authorized to do so by statute or licence or unless they obtain a licence in mortmain under the act.

The laws governing this area are complicated, outdated and no longer necessary. However, at the same time it is necessary to provide some control in land holding by charities to ensure that charities are not used as investment vehicles.

Under the bill to amend the Charities Accounting Act, the public trustee may take action to register notice against the land of a charity where he is of the opinion the land has not been used and occupied for the charitable purpose for three years, is not required for use and occupation for the charitable purpose and will not be required for use and occupation for the charitable purpose in the immediate future. Although the land remains the property of the charity unless the public trustee takes such action, where he does so the land vests in him. The public trustee will then sell the land and apply the proceeds of sale to the charity.

It is further provided that land which has not been sold that has vested in the public trustee under the existing act will be deemed to have remained the property of the charities or their trustees. This validates the title of third parties to land conveyed to them by charities which lack the title to convey it.

CORPORATIONS INFORMATION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Elgie moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. McMurtry, first reading of Bill 5, an Act to amend the Corporations Information Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I am introducing for first reading today an Act to amend the Corporations Information Act, which is a concurrent amendment to the bill that repeals the Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act introduced by my colleague, the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry). The amendment repeals subsection 3(6) of the act so that corporations will no longer be required to file information notices simply because they hold a licence in mortmain.

In addition there are two housekeeping amendments. First, a clarification regarding the use of the words "limited," "incorporated" or "corporation" eliminates any apparent conflict between the Corporations Information Act and the Business Corporations Act. The amendment makes it clear that these words may only be used as part of a proper corporate name.

The second housekeeping measure clarifies the intent of a section of the Corporations Information Act which deals with information notices. It requires that only the latest information notice be retained by a corporation.

TORONTO STOCK EXCHANGE ACT

Hon. Mr. Elgie moved, seconded by Hon. Mr.

McMurtry, first reading of Bill 21, an Act to revise the Toronto Stock Exchange Act.

Motion agreed to.

3:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, the Toronto Stock Exchange Act is intended to replace an act passed by the Legislature in 1968. Since the original Toronto Stock Exchange Act came into force there have been many developments in corporate and securities legislation that are not reflected in the act. The bill before the House today will help to bring the act in step with the needs and realities of the 1980s.

While the bulk of the present act remains unchanged, the following amendments will serve to bring the act up to date:

First, the board of governors of the Toronto Stock Exchange will be authorized to delegate its investigative and disciplinary functions to one or more committees established by the board and to individual persons.

Second, the board of governors of the Toronto Stock Exchange will be authorized to hold meetings by conference telephone, electronic or other communications facilities.

Third, the powers of the exchange to hold property will be increased to assist the planned relocation of the exchange to new quarters.

Fourth, the object of the exchange, as set out in section 4 of the bill, has been revised to reflect that securities such as options are traded on the exchange in addition to stocks.

Fifth, provisions concerning the election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the board of governors and the appointment of the secretary and the treasurer of the exchange are included in the bill.

Sixth, the exchange will be able to alter the size of the board of governors by bylaw.

Seventh, where in the public interest an order is made restricting or suspending the privileges of a member before a hearing is held, a hearing must be held within 15 days of the making of the order, otherwise the restriction or suspension expires 15 days after the making of the order.

TORONTO FUTURES EXCHANGE ACT

Hon. Mr. Elgie moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. McMurtry, first reading of Bill 7, An Act to incorporate the Toronto Futures Exchange.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, in order to clarify this, particularly for your interest, sir, the Toronto Futures Exchange Act will create a

commodity futures exchange pursuant to statutory provisions similar to the Toronto Stock Exchange Act.

The board of governors of the Toronto Futures Exchange will consist of 11 members, five of whom will be elected by members of the futures exchange, three will be elected by the Toronto Stock Exchange, two will be public directors and one will be the president.

Under this new act, the board of governors will have the authority to pass bylaws and will have the power to discipline its members or to delegate its disciplinary power to a committee established by the board. The act provides that the futures exchange may hold property without the limitations contained in the Corporations Act and will allow meetings of the board and its committees to be held by conference telephone, electronic or other communications facilities. The act also confirms that the futures exchange will be subject to the control of the Ontario Securities Commission and of the provisions of the Commodity Futures Act, 1978.

I mentioned earlier that the Toronto Stock Exchange Act is being brought up to date to match the realities of the 1980s and that same philosophy is behind the Toronto Futures Exchange Act. The latter will create, for the first time in Ontario, a separate and distinct commodity futures exchange similar to commodity exchanges in the United States and elsewhere in the world. The act will bring commodity dealers who are not members of the Toronto Stock Exchange within the self-regulatory framework of the futures exchange and allow an added measure of customer protection through a contingency fund to be established.

In order for my ministry to get full benefit from the input of all interested parties, both these bills were first tabled in the House by my predecessor and then were widely circulated last summer by the commission. Having taken into consideration the comments coming from the Ontario financial community, I am pleased to introduce both of these bills to the House today and hope my honourable colleagues will consider giving them speedy passage.

FUEL TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Ashe moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Ramsay, first reading of Bill 8, An Act to amend the Fuel Tax Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, this bill will provide an effective date of February 1, 1982, for the establishment of the program to allow

my ministry to provide assistance to small independent businessmen and farmers' co-operatives during the period of construction of the additional tankage facilities that will be required to implement the coloured fuel program on September 1, 1982. The original bill in effect indicated that we could not pay them until a time beyond the effective date of the bill of September 1, 1982, and we want to go ahead and start paying them as they incur expenses.

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Bennett moved, seconded by Hon. F. S. Miller, first reading of Bill 9, An Act to amend the District Municipality of Muskoka Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I will be introducing seven bills this afternoon. They are all reintroductions from the last sitting of the House. I have not included statements because they are basically the same bills we presented at that time.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Bennett moved, seconded by Hon. F. S. Miller, first reading of Bill 10, An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act.

Motion agreed to.

LICENSING OF BUSINESSES BY MUNICIPALITIES ACT

Hon. Mr. Bennett moved, seconded by Hon. F. S. Miller, first reading of Bill 11, An Act to provide for the Licensing of Businesses by Municipalities.

Motion agreed to.

MUNICIPAL AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Bennett moved, seconded by Hon. F. S. Miller, first reading of Bill 12, An Act to amend the Municipal Act.

Motion agreed to.

3:50 p.m.

COUNTY OF OXFORD AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Bennett moved, seconded by Hon. F. S. Miller, first reading of Bill 13, An Act to amend the County of Oxford Act.

Motion agreed to.

MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

Hon. Mr. Bennett moved, seconded by Hon.

Mr. Wells, first reading of Bill 14, An Act to revise the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

Motion agreed to.

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITIES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Bennett moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Wells, first reading of Bill 15, An Act to amend certain Acts respecting Regional Municipalities.

Motion agreed to.

EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Van Horne moved, seconded by Ms. Copps, first reading of Bill 16, An Act to amend the Education Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, very briefly, the situation with regard to measles is alarming and of concern to me. I want to try to draw it to the attention of the House and the public by introducing this bill. The incidence of measles is 10 times greater in Canada than it is in the United States. The significant factor, when one examines this, is that immunization for measles is mandatory in the United States but not in Canada and in Ontario.

When one notes that one out of 10,000 children who contact measles dies, that one out of 1,000 who contact measles is left with encephalitis which can kill or cause permanent mental retardation, and that one per cent of children who contact measles requires hospitalization, I think it is time we acted.

This new subsection provides that no child shall be admitted to an elementary school unless a certificate respecting the child's immunization against measles has been produced.

TOWN OF ST. MARYS ACT

Mr. Edighoffer moved, seconded by Mr. J. A. Reed, first reading of Bill Pr2, An Act respecting the Town of St. Marys.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT

Ms. Bryden, seconded by Mr. Samis, moved first reading of Bill 17, An Act to require the Use of Child Car Seats or Restraint Systems.

Motion agreed to.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, the bill would require that children under the age of five years or weighing less than 20 kilograms be secured in child car seats or restraint systems when travelling as passengers in motor vehicles. This is

basically what has been promised in the throne speech, but we will give the government the opportunity to adopt this bill.

It is an essential safety measure to reduce the shocking toll of deaths and injuries to young children travelling in automobiles. The bill is an amendment to the Highway Traffic Act. It would go into effect on proclamation after public information and educational programs have been undertaken and sufficient time has been given for manufacturers to gear up for the enlarged market.

VDT OPERATORS' SAFETY ACT

Mr. R. F. Johnston, seconded by Mr. Mackenzie, moved first reading of Bill 18, An Act for the Protection of Video Display Terminal Operators.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I spoke to this in the last session and I will let it go at that.

LANDLORD AND TENANT AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Philip, seconded by Mr. Mackenzie, moved first reading of Bill 19, An Act to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, this bill increases from one week to three weeks the time within which a caretaker who occupies premises in connection with his employment is required to vacate those premises when his employment is terminated. The first week of this period is rent-free as in the present act.

4 p.m.

LANDLORD AND TENANT AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Philip moved, seconded by Mr. Swart, first reading of Bill 20, An Act to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, this bill clarifies the landlord's obligation to pay interest on a tenant's security deposit annually and the tenant's right to set unpaid interest off against the rent. The maximum penalty for failure to pay this interest is, for the first offence, a fine equal to the interest on the security deposit, calculated at the Canada savings bond rate, and \$2,000 for subsequent offences.

CITY OF MISSISSAUGA ACT

Mr. Kennedy moved, seconded by Mr. Jones,

first reading of Bill Pr7, An Act respecting the City of Mississauga.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION TO SUSPEND ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. Peterson moved, seconded by Mr. Nixon, pursuant to standing order 34, that the ordinary business of the House be set aside so that the House may debate a matter of urgent public importance, that being the serious and unprecedented level of unemployment in this province and the lack of government programs to come to grips with this matter.

Mr. Speaker: I want to advise honourable members that this notice of motion has been received in time and complies with standing order 34. I will be pleased to listen to the honourable member for up to five minutes while he states his case for setting aside the ordinary business of the House.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, sir, I bring this motion to you under rule 34(c)(1) of the standing orders, which reads, "The matter proposed for discussion must relate to a genuine emergency, calling for immediate and urgent consideration."

I can think of no case that requires the attention of this House more than the one I have mentioned. We have been away from here for several months. I believe I speak for every member in this House when I say we have been touched daily by the unemployment problems in our constituencies. I am sure the honourable minister agrees with me.

In my own constituency office, six, eight or 10 people come every day asking for a job, and I wish I could help them. I can cite examples of terrible situations. One is a 52-year-old man who was let go by the local community college after having worked there for 10 years. He has two children in school and a mortgage on his house. One can only imagine what this and similar situations are doing to those people's lives.

The statistics are stark and bare. The number of unemployed, 375,000, is a large number. All of us politicians, particularly those of us who recently had the opportunity to travel widely throughout this province, have met with many of the unemployed, not only in our own constituencies but all across Ontario.

The accumulation of despair, the level of anxiety in this province, to me to me is very alarming. I say to you, Mr. Speaker—and my

colleague the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) put the question to the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller)—unemployment has to be the most serious problem in the province today, even though the Treasurer is not prepared to admit that at this time.

We can move here. The government constantly has a threefold policy. One, they blame the federal government; two, they take our scarce, finite, precious resources—i.e. money—and spend them on things that will not create jobs here in Ontario; and, three, now they are threatening and setting us up for a new round of tax increases, knowing that we can hardly bear the ones we have at this point. That is almost the extent of the industrial strategy or any plan to create growth and jobs here in Ontario.

It is my view that we could have a serious and meaningful discussion, a contribution of ideas, on how we could create jobs here immediately in Ontario. I am convinced that every member, regardless of party, will have a number of ideas on what can be done now and I think the government should avail itself of those specific ideas here and now so we can get something moving immediately.

I am sick of hearing that we cannot do anything. I am sick of hearing them blame the federal government. I am sick, very frankly, of political responses to what I would call fundamental structural problems in our economy. What we are facing, I suggest, is not new and did not come at us without warning. These things have been coming on for four or five years. We talked about them in the last campaign—perhaps not very effectively—but the credibility of that campaign is patently obvious to all people in Ontario today.

I say that with some pride. I admit that we were out-advertised and out-strategized and a variety of other things, but those people are now realizing it, as are the journalists. Look at all the articles today about the decline of Ontario. That is impressing itself on people's consciousness right across this province. It is registered in the fact that 68,000 people have left our province in the last two years.

I say that it needs emergency action now. I know of no subject that falls under the rules better than this one. Let us apply our minds to that question. I am sorry that only two hours remain for this discussion, Mr. Speaker. I implore you to consider it with the same urgency that I consider it.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the New Democratic Party to support the

motion. Mind you, I am surprised that the provincial Liberals have the audacity, having come into this chamber on Tuesday like Trudeau clones with their red badges and flowers, to bring in a motion saying that unemployment is the major issue when their kissing cousins in Ottawa are one of the major reasons for it.

However, unlike the Tories across the way, I am not going to engage in fed-bashing simply for the sake of fed-bashing because we and this government in Ontario have an enormous responsibility to live up to and meet the social consequences of the economic decline of this province. This government and that party are failing to meet the responsibility of the social consequences of economic decline in this province. It is an insult, Mr. Speaker—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Port Arthur has the floor.

Mr. Foulds: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It looks as if I struck a nerve in the chamber. If there was a natural disaster in this province, if there was a flood or an enormous tie-up of one section of the province because of a snowstorm or a natural tornado that went through an area and devastated that area, we would in this House be dealing with emergency steps and measures to deal with that natural disaster.

4:10 p.m.

What do we have here in Ontario? We have a disaster that is of that scope and seriousness, but it is not an act of God, it is an act of the federal Liberal and the provincial Conservative governments. We have an act of insensitivity on the part of both levels of government that has devastated this province and caused the massive unemployment we see in Ontario.

The figures are well known. We have 375,000 unemployed, 17 per cent higher than in January of last year. If the members want to know what that abstract figure means, if we had a line of individual people stretching from Windsor to Toronto, that is the number of people unemployed in this province today.

Think of the hundreds of thousands of others who are suffering the consequences of that unemployment. Think of their families; think of the people who desperately want work and cannot find it; think of the indignity they feel every day of their lives and then think of the failure of this government to take any action at all or to announce any action at all in the throne

speech to remedy that problem. Then members will have the very real reason why we need an emergency debate on this matter.

Mr. Speaker: One minute left.

Mr. Elston: Speed it up.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have lots of material for when we get into the debate itself.

I come back at the last to the first point. Look at that speech from the throne. It complains about the federal Liberals; it mentions the hardships and actually analyses to some degree the extent of the hardships wrought by unemployment; and it concludes in the most mealy-mouthed way I can imagine that the province may have to develop plans to deal with federal intransigence. That is why we need not only the special emergency debate in this House today, but we need much more from this government. We need the programs to put those jobs in place. During the debate on this motion, my colleagues will be spelling out in detail those programs that the province should undertake.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I was going to begin by commending the new Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) but I see he is not there. Oh, there he is again. I looked up all of a sudden and he was not there, but he has returned.

I wanted to begin by commending him not only on assuming this new job but also on submitting this motion for an emergency debate in plenty of time for all of us to consider it. In fact, it arrived on Tuesday at noon. I make that point very clearly and carefully because Tuesday at noon was before the members of this House, all of us here assembled, had heard His Honour read the speech from the throne.

By four o'clock on Tuesday we had the privilege of having heard a speech that listed a compendium of economic initiatives and programs that are either under way or imminent for one purpose, and that one purpose is to create jobs, to get people working in this province. The point I am making is that a large part of the content of the speech from the throne had to do with economic initiatives to create jobs to battle unemployment in this province.

A motion was moved that the speech be taken under consideration by this House this afternoon. We are now about to embark upon a very important debate on that important subject, a debate called the throne speech debate, in which all members can speak, in which there are no time limits, in which amendments can be moved and in which all members can vote as their consciences dictate at the end of the debate.

On this important matter we need more than just this afternoon. We need at least the eight days provided in this important throne speech debate which we are all about to begin. I suggest to my friends that no one is underrating the importance of this topic. In fact, we underline it as the top priority item of this government. We are prepared to sit here and debate it with them for the next eight days. Therefore, I submit there is no need for a special emergency debate.

The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Robinson) and the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) are ready to move and second a motion which will embark us on an important debate on this matter.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened with great interest to the members of the three parties as they put their views forward. I must say I agree it is a matter of prime concern and perhaps I, more than anyone in the House, recognize it as such on a personal as well as on a riding basis.

I find the motion is in order in accordance with the criteria in clause (c). I will put the question to the House and the only question before the House is: Shall the debate proceed?

Those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

Those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Before the Leader of the Opposition starts, and not to penalize him in any way, I would like to advise all honourable members they are allowed 10 minutes each.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, may I thank you and commend you on your judgement. I am sensitive to the things the honourable House leader for the government party has mentioned. Indeed, we do have an interim supply debate and we do have a throne speech debate coming along. But you have to recognize as you have, Mr. Speaker, that we in the opposition in a majority parliamentary situation have only a limited number of devices to express our point of view or our strong disapproval of government policy. The emergency debate device, of course, is one I believe focuses attention, even though it does not come to a resolution of it, on what we consider to be the major issues of the day.

I talked earlier to some extent about the human toll our public policies are creating right across this province. Mr. Speaker, if I had taken you to Grey county with me, if you had seen

what was happening in the agricultural sector there, if you had actually listened to the young mother who talked to me and whose cheque was not honoured by the local food store because the interest was just compounding itself and there was no income coming into that family, who did not know how she was going to feed her two children the next day, you would respond in the same way I do.

Underneath almost all economic as well as political theory go one's conscience and one's sense of obligation to one's principles. Liberals historically have always been moved by a sense that our responsibility is to respond and help people who need help. I do not know of a situation where that is more important now. It is the most serious crisis I have seen in my six or seven years in the House. From discussions with my colleagues in every riding right across the province, they feel the same way, and I suspect I speak for my colleagues in the New Democratic Party, as well as for members across the House.

4:20 p.m.

The response that we do not have enough government money is not good enough. We do have money. I think a lot of government expenditures have been misallocated. We can and should be spending money on job creation now, and that has to go into two particular areas. Number one, we have to contemplate relief on an emergency basis so that we will not further drive people into bankruptcy, into losing their homes or their businesses. I regard that the same way I would regard our obligation if there was disaster, a train derailment, a tornado in Oxford county, a flood in Brantford, or whatever. That is our responsibility, if we take the common notion that there is indeed a disaster situation in Ontario.

We can relate our problems to other provinces. We can say it is all going west. We have talked about the 10th and last situation in terms of growth. The Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) finds some benefit in being 10th and last in a number of economic industries, but the reality is that Ontario is in very bad shape today. If we look, we can find enemies. We can blame the consumers of autos in the United States, we can blame Ottawa, we can blame President Reagan, we can blame Milton Friedman, von Hayek, Margaret Thatcher or anybody else we want to find.

We have a \$20 billion or \$21 billion budget here in the province. We are responsible for a number of things that are intimately involved in the wealth-creation process. The most patently

naive remark I have ever heard in my life was from the new Minister of Industry and Trade Development (Mr. Walker). I gather he made a speech to some chamber of commerce somewhere—the only place he would probably ever feel comfortable—and he said, "I am not an interventionist." That is reminiscent of the last Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Baetz) saying "I am not a liar."

Mr. Nixon: Talk about laissez-faire Liberals.

Mr. Peterson: It reminded me of that. We are interventionists and we have always been interventionists. Let us not get hung up on these phoney labels. We are interventionists in this province because we are involved in the educational system. Just because it is not matching the needs of the job market today does not mean we do not have a responsibility to do so.

How can the minister say he is not an interventionist when he is a part of a government that has put major amounts of money, hundreds of millions of dollars, into pulp and paper companies, automotive companies and a variety of others? What does he mean he is not an interventionist? Of course he is. He just intervenes incorrectly, that is his problem. Our job is to intervene in such a way as not to crowd out the private sector. There are lots of ways we can intervene and be helpful today, create jobs and protect people now.

I want to talk for a few minutes about what I think we should be doing, apart from crisis intervention and emergency interest-rate relief programs, which I think have to be targeted and have to be budgeted. We do not have an infinite amount of money to do that, but we can find \$100 million to do that, going into certain sectors. It would be based on income, based on need and only in cases of most dire necessity. Let us look at the other side, the job creation side. There is so much we could do in conservation, for example. Look at the tremendous opportunities we are confronted with.

My colleague, who used to be Energy critic and is now Natural Resources critic, has talked extensively about the possibilities of alternative fuel when we are the highest per capita consumers of energy in the entire world, when we are importing 80 per cent of that energy. We have the resources to build towards some energy self-sufficiency here in Ontario, to be world leaders and to end the drain on our finite dollars to other jurisdictions in other countries. There is a tremendous opportunity.

The government just did a big study on peat. First, it denied there was any peat in the

province, then it said there was some, but it committed not one dollar to that study. That would create jobs where they are needed. It would replace fuel and keep money here in the province.

There are a number of creative things that can be done. Supposing we went into massive conservation programs in terms of home insulation, as just one example. It is highly decentralized, and caters to small businesses. As I discussed earlier today with the Treasurer, the small business sector is under major threat. According to the federation, something like 80,000 small businesses, one third of the small business community, may close their doors, sell out or shut down by the end of the year. We also know they are the chief engine of free enterprise. Good God, if nothing else Tories ought to believe in small business because that is the closest connection that most people have with building their own stake in society.

Most workers do not care whether the shares of the company they work for, be it Stelco or some other company, are owned by the state or private enterprise. That is because they do not have the connection with building their own stake, but small businessmen do. We can not take away that entrepreneurial spirit, or remove all reward for risk taken.

I recognize that lots of small businessmen are going to go under because they are going to make mistakes. It is a high risk business, but when forces over which they have absolutely no control come along and hit them in the face through absolutely no fault of their own, and government is the only agency that can intervene, then I say it is our responsibility to respond. We can not go on forever saying that we cannot do anything here in the province of Ontario.

Mr. McClellan: Is the member talking about interest rates?

Mr. Peterson: Of course I am and I am talking about immediate interest rate relief programs for this province of Ontario.

But let me talk about the job training area. It is a classic misfit. My colleague the former critic for Education, and now the critic of Industry, has very deep concerns and has spoken widely about the problem of the misallocation of our education dollar in terms of educating people for the demands of the future. I could go on with a long list of numbers about what is going to be required.

We know the jobs that are not going to come back. We know that the automotive industry,

for example, even it comes back to full health, will probably employ 20 per cent or 30 per cent fewer people than it did in its health because of the change in the nature of production. Now we can either bemoan that, keep those people on unemployment insurance forever, or we can start using those dollars constructively to train them for the jobs of the future. There are so many other areas, such as renewable fuels, the automotive areas and the electronic area. We could spend money now in the short term in construction with subsidies for lot levies and a variety of other items to get home construction going. I believe we need short-term programs; we need long-term programs; and we need crisis intervention programs in the short term.

I know my colleagues from all parties will have a number of other ideas, and they are probably all reasonably good ideas. It is a question of our having the political will. It is a question of our directing our resources into the most meaningful ways that we can use to help people in this province immediately. As legislators in the province let us not stand up and say, "There is nothing we can do." Because if there is nothing we can do, let us just all resign and go home and stop drawing our wages. There is lots we can do. It is your fault and it is my fault, so let us all get on with it constructively together.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join in this debate on unemployment. Before I get into some of the remarks that I have prepared and that I wanted to state today, I cannot let the Liberal Party go by with the kinds of comments they have been making today.

In the Windsor area we have four Liberal MPPs. We also happen to have three federal Liberal cabinet ministers. I have not heard from the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye), the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini), the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. Newman) or the member for Essex North (Mr. Ruston) once criticize the federal Liberals on their high interest-rate policy.

The member for Windsor-Sandwich did not hesitate to go hand in hand with Herb Gray door to door in the last provincial election in order to get votes to win that provincial election. He did not hesitate to receive the endorsement of Herb Gray then, but he is certainly not willing at this point, because of his commitment and because provincial Liberals—

Mr. Kerrio: Are you interested in jobs or aren't you?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order, order.

Mr. Cooke: The fact of the matter is that there just ain't no difference. A provincial Liberal is a Liberal; a federal Liberal is a Liberal; they are both the same and they both believe in high interest rates. If they did not, they would criticize their federal colleagues in the areas where they are vulnerable, and Windsor is one of the areas where they could be vulnerable.

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Riddell: Now show the House that you have graduated from elementary school.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cooke: I know the Liberal members do not like to hear the facts, but the fact of the matter is they are as responsible as the Conservative members are.

Mr. Kerrio: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: We have set aside the business of the House to talk about a very important matter. Do you not think the members should address themselves to job creation and the importance of this debate?

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member has the floor.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I think I was talking about job creation. One of the things that has to happen is that the federal Liberals have to change their high interest-rate policy.

Mr. Wildman: Otherwise we are not going to have any jobs.

Mr. Cooke: In the meantime, while we are stuck with MacEachen and Trudeau at the federal level, supported by the provincial Liberals and the provincial Tories last year when they also supported high interest rates, we have to look at what we can do at the provincial level to create jobs.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member is speaking to the issue. A motion is on the floor.

Mr. Cooke: One of the statements made in the throne speech Tuesday was: "Ontarians face an array of economic challenges. Unemployment and inflation, slow growth and lower productivity have characterized our national economy for almost a decade."

As I pointed out in question period, the Premier (Mr. Davis) has been in that post for just a little over a decade. The fact of the matter is that in the 11 years during which we have had the present Conservative government there have been no real initiatives on the part of this government to get the economy moving.

There are structural problems in our economy now, whether they be in the automobile industry or in mining machinery, areas dominated by imports and by foreign investment. Yet in the throne speech yesterday this government talked about weakening or, as they put it, "streamlining" the Foreign Investment Review Agency. The fact of the matter is that if we continue to rely on foreign investment and have foreign control of our economy we will not have control of such basic things as our interest rates in this country.

In 1972, 60 per cent of our requirements in machinery and tools were imported; in 1978 that figure had risen to 69 per cent. The fact is that we export our resources, we import finished goods and therefore we export jobs. As I said, one of the major recommendations in the throne speech is to keep that going by weakening FIRA and encouraging more foreign investment and more foreign domination of our economy.

One of the major structural problems in the automobile industry is the ownership of that industry in this province. It is simply not a coincidence that with Chrysler we have only 50 per cent Canadian value added, with Ford Motor Co. we have only 50 per cent Canadian value added and with General Motors about 60 per cent. Yet in the throne speech this government referred to Japanese cars and made no mention of the necessity for at least 85 per cent Canadian value added with the Big Three in the North American automobile industry.

Sourcing decisions by the Big Three over the years have simply been based on the ownership of the companies. The fact is that we have been cost-competitive. In fact, when comparing wages and cost per employee in Canada for automobile workers we have had a cost advantage of between \$5 and \$6 through the 1970s. So the fact is that it has nothing to do with wages but a heck of a lot to do with ownership as to where the companies are going to source their parts.

This party at our last convention passed an automobile program for Ontario. It is a realistic program. It is a program that, if it were implemented and if there were leadership at the provincial level, would go a long way towards eliminating the \$2 billion deficit, which is 25 per cent larger than the \$1.5 billion deficit we have with the Japanese. And it could create 20,000 to 30,000 jobs in Ontario.

The only comment about the automobile industry that I have read so far from the Minister of Industry and Trade Development

(Mr. Walker), who is here today, is that he hopes he will leave a legacy by which he will be called the minister of deregulation. That is his solution. Maybe he had a private meeting with President Ronald Reagan about all the deregulation Mr. Reagan has allowed the auto companies in the United States to go on with. But the fact is that in the United States the automobile industry is in trouble. The recession there is because of their economic problems and the Reaganomics which the Minister of Industry and Trade Development also endorses and wants to impose on the people of Ontario.

Some 20,000 to 30,000 jobs could be created in the automobile industry if we could create a balance. How do we go about doing that? Our automobile program which will, by the way, be debated in this Legislature at length in April, would create an automobile parts crown corporation. As members of the Legislature know, the automobile parts sector is the weakest link in the automobile industry in Ontario. The deficit in auto parts with the United States in 1981 was \$4.7 billion, a record deficit.

We would obtain equity in the auto parts companies that wanted to enter into a joint venture with the government to expand to meet the increased demand that will be created by imposing content legislation at the federal level. We would develop a plan of Canadianization of the auto parts sector. We simply cannot allow the foreign multinationals like Bendix, which moved out of this province and now exports its parts into this province from Detroit, to dominate the auto parts sector any longer.

Take a look at Mexico. They have a Mexicanization plan such that within five years after an auto parts company moves into Mexico it has to be more than 50 per cent Mexican owned. Mexico right now happens to be the fastest growing automobile jurisdiction in the world. It is because they have a plan, because they have a strategy. In this province we simply give a grant here and a grant there. We do not have any strategy whatsoever.

We talk about Canadianization, about joint ventures and about the very real need in the automobile cities of this province such as Windsor, Chatham, St. Thomas and Kitchener, all of which have about 40 per cent unemployment in the auto sector, for a plan of community adjustment. Under the plan aid could be given to the communities to cope with unemployment while the adjustment is taking place in the industry and while the automobile plan this province should implement could be put into place.

I look to this government to start showing some leadership in the basic manufacturing industry in this province. We cannot have an industrialized society in Ontario without a strong automobile industry. A grant here and a grant there is not going to rebuild that industry. We need a strategy. I ask the Minister of Industry and Trade Development to put forward that strategy and convince his laissez-faire Treasurer that positive intervention can turn this situation around.

Mr. Jones: Mr. Speaker, when the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) moved his motion for this debate, he made certain allegations about this government and its lack of concern, specifically the lack of concern of the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) for the unemployment statistics of the day in this province. I must take issue with that, as do other members on this side of the House. That was not at all the tone of his comments today in question period, nor the tone of the comments and the commitment of the throne speech, nor the record of this government through the last few years and into 1980 and 1981.

I was disappointed to hear the new Leader of the Opposition, the member for London Centre, start off with a doomsday story that sounded so much like the previous leader of that party. He talked about how we are number 10 and all this doom and gloom. One thing is certain: if we want to talk ourselves into a depression in terms of our small business state of mind, this is indeed the way to do it. The members opposite talk a lot of nonsense about it. They pretend to be friends of small business—which really does create jobs—but they say things to scare people away from small business, while pretending to be its friends.

4:40 p.m.

Let us, for a sober moment, reflect on the job creation record in this province, which has been impressive. There was a net gain of 120,000 new jobs in 1981, which is 43 per cent of the total of 278,000 jobs created in all of Canada in that year. While 31,000 new manufacturing jobs were created here in Ontario some 16,000 manufacturing jobs were lost in the rest of Canada.

As we look at the background of the current employment situation we must be honest with ourselves. We had a healthy, steady improvement from June to November. Admittedly we had a sharp decline as we came into the tail end of 1981, which has continued into 1982 accord-

ing to our latest statistics. The pattern across the country has been similar, with other regions having, perhaps, been hit harder than Ontario by that economic downturn.

We feel the employment decline is attributable, in no small measure, to the continuing high interest rates and this has sparked some controversy about the responsibility of the federal government versus that of the provincial government for the employment situation. The throne speech has been characterized as "fed bashing." However, it is a fact that in December the Treasurer of this province attended the finance ministers' conference and made the point very clearly there, and later in Halifax. He has been consistent and he said so again today.

He has asked the federal government to moderate its interest rate policy. In particular he has requested the narrowing of the interest rate differentials between Canada and the US. That is a matter of record and needed to be said in this debate because we have seen some evidence that these comments have struck a spot in Ottawa and are having some effect. In question period today our Treasurer referred to his ongoing discussions with his colleague the Finance minister in Ottawa and his discussions at that level continue to be one of his pressing concerns.

We have watched other federal actions as well—they have been commented on today in the debate and in question period and some have said, "That is fed bashing again." But the reality is that the last federal budget—and I have heard Liberals in this province admit it—discourages saving and investing. Members of Parliament from across this land, including government members, have made that comment to the Finance minister.

This province had hoped that some of the promised energy agreements would provide impetus for the startup of the megaprojects, of which Ontario is a chief beneficiary, but that has not yet occurred. Our steel industry has had a lot of layoffs; it is hurting because some of those programs have not gone forward. It is only fair that we remind our federal colleagues they are supposed to go forward with the commitments they made. We did not go to the recent first ministers' conference to be negative, to knock or bash—

Mr. Bradley: Is the member saying he is in favour of higher oil prices so that the megaprojects can go on? He cannot have it both ways. The Premier says one cannot have it both ways.

Mr. Jones: I tell the member for St. Catharines that we went there with a specific outline of certain things that we called upon the federal government to do to stimulate the economy and to help ease the unemployment statistics and how to create jobs. Suncor is not the only issue. It is a great red herring to draw across the landscape.

Members should just listen for one moment to what our Treasurer and our Premier (Mr. Davis) said to the opposition's federal Liberal colleagues. They called for an immediate short-term stimulus to the economy. They called for a change in Canada's high interest-rate policy and a new youth employment program and for increased Canadian content in vehicles imported from offshore. We heard those suggestions from the New Democratic Party speaker a moment ago. We know full well they called for that 85 per cent Canadian component. It can be done so easily with the tariff approach to it. There is the example of the Volkswagen situation with which this government was involved. It can be achieved and that is something this government has already initiated with the federal government.

We also said in specific terms to the Minister of Finance, "Restore that all-important climate of confidence that makes jobs and causes the private sector, small business and large business—business as a whole, to create jobs." That budget did strike a body blow to it, so let us not kid about it. It struck a body blow and they know it across the land.

We also urged the federal government to increase investment, to enhance trade and to do certain things in human resources. As was referred to earlier in the debate, it was outlined for all of us in the Blueprint for Economic Recovery, which the Premier of Ontario presented at the conference of the first ministers on February 2 and 3 of 1982. It is very specific in all its comments.

There were comments earlier today about the throne speech, and there were some negative comments about the so-called "bilge" program, as they refer to the BILD program. They were utter nonsense. The Treasurer reminded us again today of things that can be done under a BILD program, where we called upon the federal government to join us in, for example, the forest improvement program. That is doing something positive, something effective.

For example, the Unemployment Insurance Commission funds go to people who are cooped up at home, as is done now. Minister Axworthy

got together with Minister Pope and they made a commitment that sees people back working in a vital industry of this province—maintaining jobs, creating new jobs, skilled jobs, providing for training. It is the type of positive thing we have been calling on the federal government to do. So it is not bashing. They have been positive proposals of specific things that can be done for this economy as we come through this time.

The proposals in the throne speech—members can kid if they will—are there for them to read. We proposed increased funding for youth employment. This government has a superb record of that. The socialist government of Saskatchewan has funding of something like \$3 million in total for its youth program. The member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) was speaking a moment ago—I think Alberta has \$6 million. We had \$77 million in our envelope last year, 80,000 young people, and members heard—

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member has exhausted his allotted time. We thank the honourable member. He has used his time.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, this is my first opportunity to speak as critic for the Ministry of Industry and Trade Development. I would like to begin—I think appropriately so—by quoting a statement from the newly-appointed Minister for Industry and Trade (Mr. Walker). On February 18 the minister, speaking to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, referred to his philosophy in revitalizing Ontario's economy and said the first thing is to create jobs. This is the most important task of all—jobs, jobs and more jobs.

Let me start off as critic of the minister by saying that is the one area in which I totally agree with him. I am not sure how much longer I am going to be able to agree with him to the same extent. Perhaps I will come back from time to time to other comments he made in his speech, but on that one he is most certainly right. I do not think there is a great deal of discrepancy between the intent of either the government or the official opposition with respect to that point. There may be, however, some discrepancy with respect to the way in which we will arrive at that point.

4:50 p.m.

I could not help noticing the previous speaker's reference to the participation of the Premier of Ontario (Mr. Davis) in the recent economic conference in Ottawa. I would draw to his attention, however, as quite a number of commentators have done, that it was more

obvious there than it has ever been before that Ontario has lost its clout. It was fairly obvious that the proposals made by the Premier of Ontario, which at one time would have been listened to very carefully and would have been followed to the extent that they made sense, were not even listened to in Ottawa.

It became very obvious that Ontario is no longer the voice in Canada that is perceived to have the answer to Canada's economic problems. The reason is that Ontario has demonstrated clearly and forcefully that it does not even have the economic answers to its own problems, and that is the point we have to recognize. That is the scandal and that is the shame, because Ontario has all the necessary ingredients to solve many if not all of its own economic problems, particularly the creation of new jobs and the maintenance of existing jobs. That is what this issue is all about.

I am sick and tired of having the Premier and members of the government benches point out over and over again so piously and sanctimoniously the negative comments of other members of this Legislature. There has not been a document read in this Legislature as long as I have been here that was more negative in content and in tone than the one we heard on Tuesday afternoon. At least 50 per cent of that throne speech on Tuesday afternoon was negative, negative, negative over and over again. We heard bashing of the federal government over and over again; we heard blaming of the other jurisdiction for everything that is wrong in Ontario.

Are we to believe that a provincial jurisdiction in this country which has the majority of the population, which has the majority of the resources both physical and financial is so dependent on another government jurisdiction that it cannot even make a beginning in solving its own problems? Are we to believe it can simply sit over there and whimper about what somebody else is not doing, whimper about what somebody else should be doing?

We have in this province a new Ministry of Industry and Trade Development, we have a Treasurer, we have a Ministry of Education and a Ministry of Colleges and Universities and we have a Ministry of Labour. All of them have jurisdictions, all of them have powers, all of them have resources to begin to solve some of these problems.

I do not for one minute deny the fact they would be solved better, they would be solved more judiciously if the two levels of government

worked more closely together. I do not deny that for one moment, and that is certainly a goal to which we all should work. I can pledge to you, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my own party, that we are quite willing to work towards that goal, to work with this government and to work with the federal government. But in the interval the job must be done here in Ontario, and we have to discover for ourselves what we can do to maintain existing jobs and to create new jobs.

During the last five months I have had the opportunity to travel across this province a number of times, to criss-cross it from east to west and from north to south, to speak to a number of small and medium-sized businessmen in Ontario and to ask them what the government can do. And the answers come back consistently time and time again: There are things the government of Ontario can do; there are things the government of Ontario can do but to this point have not done very well.

We know our long-term future lies in some of the new high technology, for example; some of the new industries that exist in the Ottawa Valley area. Yet we also know those kinds of industries, whether in the Ottawa Valley area or any other place in this province, are starving for skilled help. We know it is the responsibility and the ability of Ontario, through its various ministries, to provide that skilled help, yet it is not being done.

We continue to have the mismatch in those very industries in which for a long period of time we knew there would be a need. It does none of us any good to have the wonderful 20-20 hindsight to say, "If only we had known five, 10 or 15 years ago what our need would have been, then we could have met it today." That does not do us any good at all. There were a number of places where we did know and where little or nothing was done. The finger for that responsibility can only be pointed in one direction and that is across the floor of this Legislature.

We have a situation in this province right now where we need those kinds of skilled people to enable the high-technology industries of this province to grow, and grow they must. We also know they need investment incentives. They need millions and billions of dollars of Canadian capital which is now leaving this province and this country and going to other jurisdictions. What incentive is this government providing within this jurisdiction to keep that money here? That is the question we have to ask ourselves. Sure the feds can do something to assist, but this government also can do something.

We also know those new industries are going to need the research capability in order to grow, to expand and to become truly world competitive, and to do the kind of research here using our people and our facilities to meet our needs so that we will produce products the world wants and needs.

There is clearly no sense in adding to the former Ministry of Industry and Tourism a department of trade development if we are not making the products the world wants or needs. That should be self-evident. Yet how much of our own research are we doing here? To what extent are we harnessing, channelling and focusing the research facilities of our universities, for example, where we have the facilities, the people, the ingenuity and the creativity? To what extent are we marrying those resources with those of business and those of government, to produce the kind of research our business needs?

Finally, we do need marketing assistance. That was one of the reasons I was so pleased when the new ministry did include that department of trade, because one of the things our smaller and medium-sized Canadian businesses need is assistance in the markets of the world. First of all we need assistance to analyse what it is the world wants and needs, what it is that we can sell to them, and then to come back and help us to produce those and go out and sell them.

Those are the kinds of things our own Canadian small- and medium-sized businesses need, and those are the kinds of things this jurisdiction, this province, this government can help them to provide.

We have to recognize that for far too long this government has relied and depended upon a multitude of branch plants. At the present time 60 per cent of our industry is in the form of branch plants. We can no longer continue in that direction. We have to support our own—

The Acting Speaker: The member has exhausted his time.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I rise to join in this debate because I do not view it as a chance for us to exercise more and more political rhetoric, to try to take shots at one another or at the federal government, but because we face, as the government itself admitted in the throne speech, one of the most serious periods of severe economic difficulty this province has ever faced.

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When I heard that first comment in the throne speech, I hoped it was going to be the beginning of a blueprint, as the government member who spoke referred to it, a blueprint for development, a blueprint for the provision of jobs in this province.

5 p.m.

Mr. Stokes: Almost like a design; that's what we called it 10 years ago.

Mr. Wildman: I hoped that was what it was going to be. Instead we got a long, turgid lament for our economic difficulties and for the fact that other levels of government were not taking action; but there were no specific programs to deal with the economic problems we face in this province.

It was very disappointing. The government was willing to recognize we face serious economic problems but the only thing they could suggest was to pass the buck, saying it was up to someone else to do something about it and, if someone did something, they would co-operate.

Mr. Stokes: Not the buck, the blame.

Mr. Wildman: That's right. They were very short on bucks. There was no suggestion of anything they were going to do.

Today, I want to talk especially about an area that is close to me and is of major concern in the economic situation we face. That is the serious problems we are now seeing in the lumber industry in northern Ontario.

The government itself admitted this January that approximately one third of the province's woodworkers had been laid off on permanent and temporary layoffs due to the recession. Those words were used by the government minister responsible, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope). He pointed out there was

a serious downturn in the markets for lumber, veneer, plywood and particle board and no sign of recovery was expected until mid-year.

He said until mid-year. What he was hoping when he made that statement was we would see an upturn this summer, that we would see a lowering of the interest rates which are the main cause of the unemployment in that industry, that we would see those high interest rates come down. As we have seen in the last few weeks since those statements were made in January, it appears they were overly optimistic.

It appears we are going to see a long period of serious unemployment as a result of high interest rates in this province. In January, there were approximately 6,600 forest industry employees laid off, a significantly and alarmingly high percentage of the total employment in northern Ontario. As we all know, in the area where I come from we have many single industry towns. When one gets the kinds of layoffs we have experienced, one is not just talking about the economic hardship faced by individual workers and their families, one is talking about the complete shutdown of whole communities.

We are not talking about unskilled workers or seasonal employees. We are talking about highly skilled workers who are the backbone of communities throughout northern Ontario, workers faced with a situation where they have to leave the community to find work and who find, if they go out west to British Columbia, there is no work there in the lumber industry either.

We are facing a serious recession and there has not been much of a response from either level of government. It is fine for politicians to stand here and knock each other for not doing anything, but that does not help those laid-off workers at all.

Let us look at what it means for some of these communities. We have looked at a number of them. Take Alban for instance. In that small community there has been a complete shutdown of Rogerson Lumber with a total of 345 employees. It shut down in December. There is indefinite layoff because of a downturn in the economy and in the lumber market. There is Domtar at Atikokan at the other end of northern Ontario. There were 98 employees laid off indefinitely. Look at Hearst, which is dependent on the lumber industry, as are many companies there. The whole community survives because of the lumber industry.

Look at Gosselin Lumber Co. Ltd. Out of a total number of 100 employees, 47 are laid off. The company said, "We may get back to work

by May or June, if the economy turns around, if the market turns around." Lecours Lumber Co. Ltd. in Hearst has laid off 65 out of a total number of 120. Newaygo Timber Co. Ltd. has a total of 30 out of 136 on indefinite layoff and a further possible layoff of 40 on March 26. The reason again is high inventory, interest rates.

Look at Hudson, a small community we have heard the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) talk about from time to time. McKenzie Forest Products Inc. had 35 employees out of 110 laid off in December. I could go on. In Kenora, at Boise Cascade, 775 employees out of 850 are laid off. It is true right across northern Ontario. Look at Sturgeon Falls, or Thunder Bay at Great Lakes Forest Products, with 100 employees laid off in the waferboard operation; a temporary shutdown of the woodlands operation with 1,000 layoffs for one month starting April 9; again, high inventory, slow market.

In my riding, a very small community of approximately 1,000 people is completely dependent on the Abitibi-Price sawmill operation. It is interesting to analyse the attitude of that company towards its employees. A gentleman from the Abitibi-Price head office visited the community for a Christmas dinner for the employees just before Christmas. He told them: "No problem. Things are going ahead. There will be a two-week layoff over Christmas but things look good." One week after they got back to work after Christmas that same manager returned to the community and told them there was going to be a full shutdown of the woods operation indefinitely, perhaps for up to a year if not longer. That means 160 out of 160 employees laid off in a community of fewer than 1,000 people.

People who have come to that community, mainly from Quebec and New Brunswick, have purchased homes in the town. Who can they sell these homes to? They cannot leave. They are stuck. What has this government come up with? It has proposed an accelerated forest improvement program, which determines if the companies want to get involved they can bring proposals and they can get part of \$10 million allocated by the federal and provincial governments to provide some employment.

We do not debate that there is certainly a need for forest improvement in northern Ontario. We all know the serious problems we are going to face in terms of lumber supply unless concerted action is taken. But it is not adequate; it is not going to provide the kinds of jobs we need. We are told the number of proposals now

would provide perhaps 400 jobs. In January they were talking about 6,600 people out of work in the lumber industry across northern Ontario. In the woods operations alone there are over 3,000 out of work. They are talking about expanding it. I hope they expand it but it is not enough. For us to sit here and fight about who is responsible is not adequate.

The Acting Speaker: We thank the honourable member. His time allotment has been completed.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Let me begin, Mr. Speaker, by congratulating the two most recent speakers, each of whom has become critic for his own party. I congratulate them on the jobs they have taken on and trust we will do battle as the days unfold in the next while. We have three new people in the job and it should be very interesting to see what happens.

5:10 p.m.

There is no question that the matter of this emergency debate will really be carried on for many days in the debate on the speech from the throne, because it is truly one of great importance. I do not think any of us will take any pride whatsoever in the height the unemployment figures have reached in this province and, indeed, in this country. No one could take any pleasure whatsoever in these figures and it is seriously a matter of grave concern. I hope that in the dialogue which unfolds in the next few days many, many ideas will come forward.

We do not suggest that we have the answers to all the questions; if we did I think we would probably be demonstrating to every other jurisdiction in this world just how to do things to avoid unemployment and to create employment. We have ideas that we certainly want to try. We have a budget that is going to come up in about a month from now, I suspect. It generally comes forward during the first two weeks in April; that has been the case historically. That will be the place where we will respond with the job-creation initiatives we will take.

I hope the members of this House will see fit to ensure that we have many of their ideas. I have listened here today for good, solid and substantial ideas. I think some very serious ideas have been put forward and generally speaking I think there have been ideas that bear a lot of our investigation and a lot of our determination. Indeed, there may be some that we would very strongly support. But let me say that in this process the whole question of unemployment on the one hand and employment on the other

hand is not something that warrants any kind of partisan attack. I know that all of us will participate in the debate in a very serious manner, and I am sure members will take that approach in the next few days and present their ideas.

There is no question, as I say, that our unemployment situation is in somewhat dire straits. On the other hand, we have to keep in mind that we do have a national situation; we have, indeed, an international situation when it comes to unemployment. We certainly have not captured the sole unemployment in the entire country. We happen to be one province among many; we happen to be one province among many jurisdictions and when you look around at various jurisdictions here you have to compare Ontario with perhaps other jurisdictions like those surrounding the Great Lakes and those in other parts of Canada.

Certainly we have borne the brunt of a US slowdown and no doubt when there is some degree of turnaround—and we are expecting that later this year—there will be some improvement in the situation. I would like to think that at that time we will probably take credit for the creation of the jobs.

The fact of the matter is that there is a certain cyclical aspect to all this which all of us are certainly aware of. But our recent indications are that there is a certain bottoming out of the recession as it has affected the United States, and I think that when the United States—

Mr. Nixon: That is what Herbert Hoover said in 1932.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Yes, I suppose he did. I do not know what year it was, but—

Mr. Nixon: "Prosperity is right around the corner."

Hon. Mr. Walker: Well, he might even have come to that conclusion.

But we hope there is, in fact, a bottoming out and if there is it is going to have some effect on Ontario. There is no doubt that the high interest rate we have today is a very material factor in the plight of our unemployed. There is no doubt that people will not be buying cars because of the cost of cars and to a large extent because of the competition. There is no doubt that the fact that people are not buying other consumer items and do not have money of their own is creating a fair amount of unemployment in the process.

But our rates do compare reasonably favourably with those around the country. The 1982

January unemployment rate in Ontario was 7.4 per cent. Of course, that is unacceptably high and I think all of us in this room today feel discomforted by the fact that any person who wants a job is out of a job; it is a very discomforting fact. But in our province we are somewhat more favourably adjusted than other states.

Among the provinces of Canada, British Columbia has an unemployment rate in excess of eight per cent; Quebec in excess of 11 per cent, and it is 8.3 per cent in all of Canada.

The unemployment rate in the industrialized states that surround Ontario to the south and west is as follows: Michigan is just under 15 per cent; Ohio is over 10 per cent, nearly 11 per cent; and Pennsylvania is over 11 per cent. The United States generally is in excess of our rates. By comparison, we certainly are not quite as badly off as some of the other states. Regrettably, we have an unacceptable level of unemployment in this province.

The Acting Speaker: The minister has one minute.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, a whole host of recommendations was put forward in the speech from the throne in terms of a very general approach. Obviously, the speech from the throne does not spell out, and in the past never has spelled out, any details.

The Acting Speaker: I am sorry, the minister has five minutes. I took a nod as being one minute.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, the speech from the throne did indicate it was the government's intention to have a job-creation program as much as we can. In the speech from the throne there was an urging that the federal government join with us in a program of economic recovery designed to stimulate non-inflationary growth, and that is very important, and at the same time to create jobs for Ontarians.

A number of the programs were set out in rather general detail. Those will ultimately be set out in more detail as the budget comes down. The budget provides for job-creating measures; global funding for youth employment and a capital works program supported by the government will be accelerated. A wide range of initiatives will be taken to increase the stock of rental housing. I draw some particular note to that aspect.

The recently announced forest improvement project is to be expanded and special employment initiatives will be adopted by the Ministry

of Natural Resources to upgrade and accelerate the construction of resource access roads, creating hundreds of new jobs in our opinion.

Federal authorities will be encouraged to consider new programs by which funds normally paid as unemployment insurance can be directed as a supplement to provide employment in other areas of worthwhile endeavours. The government intends to determine which companies in the buy-back program which might otherwise have basically closed down might be brought within that program.

There will be a number of initiatives taken, certainly in agriculture where a number of initiatives have already been announced and are fairly well spelled out. Some major help for the beef producers has been reflected in the past year. Other measures coming forward will be the farm adjustment assistance program which is to be broadened. There was some indication of that a short while ago.

In addition, a new measure will be brought in to encourage young farmers to get involved with a farm and start-up capital assistance will be provided for them. There will also be measures to ensure that producers are paid in the event of financial default by buyers.

It is our intention to expand the Foodland Ontario program and, as well, to ensure there is not as much dependence on imports. As the members well know, in this province we have something like \$2.3 billion worth of food imported on an annual basis. We have targeted some 40 per cent of that which could be subject to import substitution.

The Acting Speaker: The minister has one minute.

Mr. Riddell: If the Ontario government had an agriculture policy we would not be in the problem we are in today in agriculture. It is the government's lack of initiative that has put us in the present position.

Hon. Mr. Walker: That would be a great help. Perhaps we can find ourselves in a position where we can adjust that figure to a much more reasonable and acceptable figure. I know the member for Huron-Middlesex would join me in support of that because, obviously, if the farmers as an industry are better off, then we as a province are far better off. Anything we can do in our ministry to dedicate ourselves in that direction will be done.

The new ministry has been created in terms of splitting off Tourism to another aspect, to

another ministry and adding to it the trade responsibilities in an enhanced way and it is our intention—

The Acting Speaker: The honourable minister has utilized his time.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Wrye: I am rising to join this debate today with a sense of mixed emotions. There is a temptation, which I may allow myself to slip into from time to time, to engage in excessively partisan rhetoric. Yet, I come back to this place after some three months in my community, somewhat shaken, as many of us are, by the depths to which this recession has reduced so many of our communities and neighbourhoods.

It is fair to say, for all of us in Windsor of all political parties, it has been a very difficult winter, spent seeing constituents who are really left with nowhere to turn. What has made it even more difficult is to come back and go through a document such as this, and then to listen to the Minister of Industry and Trade Development (Mr. Walker) attempt to explain it away by suggesting that, well, we are not as badly off as some of the United States or some of the other provinces; as if that makes it acceptable.

At one point the minister was speaking of the state of Michigan which, he said, has an unemployment rate of 14.5 per cent. I might tell the honourable minister, if he could ever find his way down to Windsor, he would find a city with an unemployment rate of around 17 per cent. Down in Windsor we are way ahead of Michigan, of Pennsylvania and of just about all of the industrialized states of the American northeast, in the rate of unemployment.

It is a problem the government has thus far failed to address, and it is a problem which I suspect is not addressed in this throne speech. For a glorious moment I thought this government had finally decided to get down to the business of job creation in this province.

To refresh the memories of members, the speech began, "While it is clear that the legislators of Ontario cannot be expected, by themselves, to reverse these difficult circumstances"—and I certainly agree, we cannot do it all by ourselves—"we must nevertheless devote our abilities and our energies to putting Ontario on a more positive economic track." I thought that was a fine sentence. It is too bad that the next eight or 10 pages went on to bash Ottawa and to suggest that all of the problems could be solved by Ottawa; that none of the

responsibility was Ontario's. As my friend the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney), and my leader have suggested, if we have no responsibility then maybe we could save the people of Ontario a few dollars just by voting ourselves out of a job and going home, and leaving it to Ottawa to solve all of our problems.

I do not think that is what the people of Ontario want us to do. I think they reject the notion that Ontario is, somehow, a helpless giant. I think they realize that it is not so much a helpless giant, as that it has a government that has run out of ideas and initiatives. It is amazing that a jurisdiction with a budget which this year will probably pass \$20 billion cannot find—as I read this speech, and as I followed the last session—one major job-creating initiative.

The initiatives that were contained in this speech from the throne all said one thing, "You will get Ontario's co-operation if we get Ottawa's money." As much as I might like some changes by Ottawa and as much as I might agree that some changes could be made with respect to the automotive industry, for example, there are certainly initiatives that Ontario could take.

I was struck by something very early on. There was a promise that, in the budget, the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) would announce some increased global funding for youth employment. I found that exceedingly interesting and more so after I read an article which had appeared in the *Toronto Star* just the previous day. The article said the provincial government intends to spend \$12 million this year to create 8,800 jobs for young people. That, I suppose you could suggest, is commendable, except for the fact that last year this government, which is so concerned with creating jobs, created, under the same program, 1,200 more jobs and spent some \$13.5 million. This is the government's serious approach to the creation of jobs.

This year it is going to cut back on money and it is going to cut back on job creation. What is the reason? I see my friend the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) is shaking his head. I am just reading the comments of the co-ordinator of the Ontario Youth Secretariat summer employment program. He said, "An increase in the minimum wage accounts for the decrease in jobs." Perhaps it is the government's intention to decrease the minimum wage to a dollar so we could create more jobs. Of course no one would earn enough to live on and no student would earn enough to go back to school, but we could create a few more jobs.

What would create a few more jobs would be

a sense of responsibility on the part of this government for the unemployed youth of this province. Unemployment among young people is a crisis which is growing daily, not only among the youth who are in the work force full time, but those who are trying to join the work force in the summer so they can return to universities in the fall. They know they need to earn money in the summer because they know just how chintzy and cheap this government is in terms of its student assistance.

I wanted to talk a little bit about the initiatives that the government did not offer in the area of labour. When it got to labour initiatives my ears perked up and I waited to hear something significant, because one of the problems that so many of our workers face is that in these difficult economic times the net, as it were, that the former Minister of Labour talked so proudly about really just is not there. I listened with great interest awaiting great government initiatives. I was awaiting an understanding on the part of this government in terms of severance pay that five years was far too long, by about four years, for an employee to begin to qualify for a little more of a net, not much more; and yet I did not hear that.

I did not hear any indication of that for employees who have been around more than 26 years and who are probably nearing the end of their wage-earning life, nearing retirement, and who perhaps, if they had been there 30 years, might be able to take advantage of another few weeks' pay.

I waited to hear that the government is finally determined to do something about layoffs, not only when they occur but before they occur. There was nothing there except a minimal promise to extend the counselling and training of workers affected by plant closures. It is about time, because what the government has had in the past has been next to nothing. It will not have to work very hard to extend what has been in place before.

I remember on the last day's sitting of the House just before Christmas, I left the House and called my office and I was asked to call Windsor immediately. I found out that the Ford Motor Co. had announced it was shutting down one of its engine plants in Windsor in April of this year. That announcement had just been made. I came back into the House and I asked the Premier (Mr. Davis) whether he had been informed of this, what he thought of it and what negotiations and discussions there had been.

The Premier leaned over and asked the then Minister of Industry and Tourism who said he had been informed at 10 o'clock that morning.

That is what we are talking about and that was not in this speech from the throne. We must put mechanisms in place which can lead to an avoidance of shutdowns and where management, labour, the community and the government can sit down, discuss these matters, talk these matters out and perhaps find a way to avoid these shutdowns and these layoffs which are so crippling to workers.

It is not a matter in this day and age, with 375,000 Ontario employees out of work and that number growing, that a man or a woman who is thrown out of work can simply go to the Canada Manpower office and find a job tomorrow. That does not happen any more. It will not happen tomorrow, next week or even after that.

So I might say I was very disappointed in the speech from the throne. I was very disappointed that this government has done nothing to aid job creation in this province.

5:30 p.m.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I get the impression the longer I am around this House that the Ontario Conservatives and the loss of jobs go hand in hand. What we have is not a disaster waiting to happen. We have a disaster already happening in Ontario in terms of jobs, and we are seeing unfortunately a bit of deindustrialization of our province. I have listened to some of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program rhetoric we get from the Tories and I am reminded very much of printing and dishing out Canadian Tire money and sending the people to Dominion Stores with it. It is that kind of an answer.

The federal Liberals may not be much better in providing jobs in this country, but there is no excuse for the kind of fed bashing that seems to be the only defence the Tory government has in Ontario right now in trying to place all the blame on the feds. What we are really witnessing when we see that kind of an attack and that kind of a position in the speech we just heard, the throne speech, is a further measure of this government's cop-out when it comes to dealing with and taking any responsibility for jobs for people. In the last year, the government's sleight-of-hand con game, called BILD, saw unemployment in Ontario go from 321,000—I am talking in real terms now—to 375,000. In one year we had this great BILD in Ontario and what has it got us? It sure as hell got us an awful lot more people out of work.

I sometimes wonder if it ever crosses a Tory's mind that the 375,000 unemployed people we are talking about are genuine and important and individual and that they are hurting out there. These people fear for themselves and their families. I just wonder when the Conservatives are going to understand what is real and important to people out there, what they need and want, and not rely on old-fashioned methods, old ideas and really a tradition almost of some kind of divine right to govern without doing anything about the key problems that hit us.

I really wonder also if we should not be a little more honest with people about what is really happening in Ontario. It is not a question of 375,000 jobs that many of us have quoted here today. That is the figure that shows. If we get into the real figure and the hidden unemployed—and I am talking about those unfortunate who have run out of benefits, who have given up looking for work, and I can give you a few examples—the best figure in Ontario tells us 547,000, or 11.9 per cent of the work force in this province, and to me that is a disaster we have arrived at in Ontario.

We are having people come to us. One young chap was here with reasonable marks in schools and half a dozen good recommendations, but the recommendations are all at service stations or car wash outfits where he has been able to get some temporary jobs. He came in to me and said: "Look, I have an additional bit of a handicap. I happen to have a bit of a disc problem. I am only 23 years old with an additional health problem, so every time I do get an application, and I have a difficult time even getting an application, for a firm that might pay a decent wage, I am okay until I take the medical, and that's the end of it right there." Where does he go?

I liked some of the comments on the front page of my own local paper, the *Spectator*, in last night's issue, talking about looking for a job as a hopeless task. I think all of us should read it and the comments from some of the young people being interviewed. The common theme is: "It isn't any use. We go everywhere. Even if we are down at Manpower every day and make all the calls, we do not find employment." Some of them have pretty well given up.

I also found it interesting that one of the young chaps talked about going into one of the big steel mills, saying he was told, "Don't call us, we'll call you." He was also told with a laugh by

the personnel manager of that particular plant, "I will put your application on file with the other 10,000 we have here."

I wonder what we will do if we can't put it in real terms. When I get a letter, and I am sure every member in this House must have had them, that is written to me—I will give members the key parts of one here. It is addressed to "Dear Bob"—I don't know if I know the lady that well, but this is the letter:

"I am writing to you regarding my son Robert who is having a desperate time finding a job, as are so many others. He has no means of support. I am keeping him. He has been refused welfare and he is out every day looking hard for work. He is also at Manpower every day too. I know that for a fact to be so, as I have been home myself off work because of illness with back problems. We cannot go on much longer like this, Bob. I am getting so deep in despair and having an awful time keeping my head above water financially. I cannot even pay my taxes on my house.

"As of now, it takes all of my paycheque to pay my bills and groceries to keep us and, as you know, Bob, I work at St. Joe's and the wages are not that high. I am not asking for charity, Bob, but if Robert could get a job, and if not, maybe you could help him with welfare."

She goes on to say that she is pleased she is going to be able to go back to work next week. She is going back to work "because I have to, because I cannot keep the bills paid otherwise."

That is an appeal from a woman on behalf of her son, but what she is doing is talking about what is happening to the ordinary people who are faced with this problem of unemployment. I am talking about over half a million people in the province. We also do not have to go far. I was talking today to the social welfare people in Hamilton—and what did I find out? The applications for assistance for welfare in the month of January were up 65 per cent in my city.

That is part of the spinoff effect of what is happening because we have not provided jobs for people in Ontario. I, for one, am getting damned sick and tired of a government that brings in fancy BILD programs that do absolutely nothing, that last year saw us go down in employment by another 30,000, 40,000 or 50,000 jobs in this province. There is something wrong with this government and its lack of a response in any real and meaningful way.

I think that we have to do a number of things. My colleagues have laid out some. We hope to do a fair job of dealing with them at more length.

We have talked about putting some of the money into grants to some of the winners in Ontario and developing them, some of the industries we could work with, rather than the losers we are always called upon to bail out. We might take a serious look at what we have done in any number of areas.

For years my colleague the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) has been talking about the fact that there is a market for a mining machinery industry. The job figure at the low point is 10,000 and at high point is better than 20,000. Those are the numbers in terms of actual jobs if we were building our own mining machinery, which we should be doing in this country.

What has happened? I can bring it down to the other end of the ladder—peaches and tomatoes. I was really surprised a couple of years ago to find out that about 30 years ago we produced and canned about 70 per cent of all the peaches and tomatoes that we ate in Ontario. I understand that figure is down to or below 30 per cent today.

Now what the heck has gone wrong that we have allowed the big companies to come in, buy out and shut down the small factories so now we cannot even feed ourselves in these two crops? Both the federal and provincial ministers of agriculture tell us we have the canning capacity to supply 100 per cent of our needs in this province. What has happened? How have we missed something as obvious as that?

Why have we not got the content legislation in terms of the auto pact? For years now we have been screaming about this. One of the recent United Auto Workers briefs pointed out that our overall deficit was \$4.3 billion. Our deficit in auto parts alone was over \$2 billion in the first several months and that automobile parts deficit amounted to better than 30,000 jobs. It is not the assembly of the cars themselves, but just the automobile parts. In this country we have not required the kind of content legislation or, before that, the kind of enforcement of the auto pact that is required to deal with this problem in our province.

Very recently we went to Peterborough. We went through the Outboard Marine plant. That is the classic story of what's been happening in the branch plant economy and the deindustrialization of Ontario. I know I do not have time to go into it, but only six or seven short years ago there were 1,900 industrial employees in that plant and 230 in the office. We are down to 500 and 125 today. We are down from over 40 per

cent of the parts being manufactured there to two small parts, a baffle and a can. The rest is assembly in that plant. The workers have the word that some of the production from that plant is going to Mexico and some of it is going out to another American plant within the next year.

We also had the expertise in that plant to do research and development. We did it, like the modifications to the marine motors, and as soon as we had accomplished that, the product was shipped out to the United States to be produced down there. That was part of the job loss in that plant.

When is this government going to wake up and quit kidding people with a dumb, stupid BILD approach that does not provide jobs and get on with the job of providing work for people who need it in this province? It is long past time, and all of us should be disgusted with the performance of the Tory government.

5:40 p.m.

The Acting Speaker: The Minister of Labour.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am confused as to just who is the Minister of Labour. Is there a new Minister of Labour?

The Acting Speaker: The chair had recognized on its first glance the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay), but it was indicated to me that he had given his time to the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies). The chair recognizes the member for Brantford.

Mr. Gillies: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is certainly no confusion in my mind. I am quite willing to toss a coin for the time if the minister would care to.

I would be less than honest if I said I was pleased to join this debate because, like most other members of this assembly, I wish this debate had not been necessary. However, perhaps as much as if not more than most members of the assembly I have lived in my own constituency through the winter months with a very difficult employment situation which continues, although there are certainly signs that it is abating.

I want to talk about that briefly, but I would also like to address a few of the comments my friend the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) made about youth employment. I really wish the honourable member had checked with me before he made his speech because I could have given him some of the facts of the matter he addressed. As it happens, he was relying on a

press report that was not totally accurate. The throne speech reference to youth employment and the emphasis the government will continue to place on it and, indeed, the increased funding are quite true. I am sure the member looks forward to the budget, as I do, for the evidence of that.

The honourable member is quite accurate in noting that one of our programs, the summer Experience program, has been trimmed from \$13.5 million to \$12 million. If the member had checked with me, he would have found that the thrust of the youth secretariat in the last year has been to address the increasing unemployment problem among young people in the nonsummer months. The peak unemployment months for young people are no longer in the summer, they are in the winter. We have a problem with people who have left the school system and are not returning, so we are not talking about student jobs, and we realized we had to create new programs and take new initiatives to address this.

Although that particular program will not receive increased funding, there will be a new program coming in which I expect we will announce in the budget. There will be increased funding for the Ontario career action program which runs year-round under the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and which is very successful in addressing the problems of first employment for young people who are trying to crack the job market. All of these things will come into play. The honourable member will see that the unemployment problem among young people is going to be addressed in the upcoming budget and that global funding for youth employment programs is going to rise quite significantly.

Mr. Wrye: We will go from almost nothing to slightly more.

Mr. Gillies: If the member thinks \$58 million is nothing, then he has a different state of mind to me. I think we are putting a very serious emphasis on the program and it will continue to be increased. However, I did want to speak more specifically about the situation I found in my riding.

Mr. Wrye: When does the jet get delivered?

Mr. Gillies: The member for Windsor-Sandwich really woke up in the last couple of minutes. I might say we listened very intently to his remarks.

The Acting Speaker: I think the honourable member has made a good point. We have all

listened intently to other members. I think the member for Brantford should have the opportunity to have his say.

Mr. Gillies: Thank you. That is exactly what I want to talk about, and not in a particularly partisan vein. In Brantford during the winter months we have taken a very co-operative approach. I might say that one of the more positive things which has happened in my community, where we were wrestling with an unemployment rate approaching 20 per cent, is that we co-operated. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon); our federal member, who represents the third party, the mayor and I made a concerted effort to involve Brantford in one of the federal programs, the industry and labour adjustment program, for which, I might add, I give full credit to the federal government.

Mr. Bradley: Did you say false credit to the Liberal government?

Mr. Gillies: No, I said full credit. The member may at times want to offer false credit with the situation he has in St. Catharines, but that is another speech.

I might suggest that some of the members have spoken in a nonpartisan vein, suggesting there are programs available, that there are ways to co-operate both interparty and between the levels of government to get positive results. Brantford is evidence of that.

I have heard various members suggest, and I would point to the last speaker, that the government has done nothing to alleviate employment problems and that it has done nothing to enhance or attempt to enhance industrial possibilities in the province. Nothing could be further from the truth. Again, I look at my own riding and I see a commitment from the federal government of \$125 million and from this government of \$75 million to ensure the continuation of the Massey-Ferguson company.

I am not going to stand in this chamber and tell any member of any political stripe that those governments have not tried to do something to help my community, because they have. We voted on it in this House and that party supported it and that party did not, but again that is another speech.

I look at some of the smaller companies functioning in Brantford. I look at companies like Lockwood Manufacturing and Etatech Industries. These were branch plants of American companies that, through the co-operation of the Ministry of Industry and Tourism and the

Ontario Development Corp., were brought back into Canadian ownership and where the workers continued to have employment.

By my count, I think the ODC has co-operated with companies in my riding to provide about 1,200 jobs. That is not insignificant. Many of them are in that all-important small business sector that other members have referred to. That is evidence to my mind that it is unfair to suggest the government has done nothing in this area. In fact, many of our ongoing programs have had very positive results indeed.

I look at the training situation. I would certainly agree with the one member who spoke who said, and I could not agree more, that one of the greatest tragedies in this country is that in a time of high unemployment in certain fields we have to continue to import skilled labour. There is no more ridiculous indictment of our country, perhaps of our educational system, than that, and I am in full agreement.

There are encouraging signs. I had an opportunity some months back to speak at the first graduation of a new program operating in Brantford called the Brantford Industrial Training Advisory Council. The private sector, business people and industrialists, working in co-operation with our community college, have started classes for apprentices.

I spoke at the first graduation. There were 22 young people graduating that night. All 22 of them had jobs. They were already working in the fields in which they were trained. There is another graduation coming up in a month or so. I look forward to visiting that one. There are certain programs—

Mr. Cunningham: Hundreds of people are waiting to get into that program. It is a disgrace.

Mr. Gillies: That is the member's problem on the Fennell campus. That is not my problem. That is a good example of how the private sector and government can co-operate in providing employment.

Interjection.

Mr. Gillies: I am using the time that was allocated to me, I would suggest to the member. The equipment in that community college on which these people were trained was provided by BILD funding. BILD funding put new equipment into Mohawk college. The people are training on it and they are coming out and getting jobs.

I am incredulous. The member for Hamilton

East (Mr. Mackenzie) tells me the program is not doing anything and I see a very clear example of how it is doing something.

Mr. Cunningham: They laid 35 people off in Mohawk because of your cuts.

Mr. Gillies: There are a number of problems in any community and we wrestle with a number in Brantford, transportation links being one of them. I am pushing and we are all pushing for the Highway 403 completion, for which the BILD program is adding funding to accelerate the furthering of that highway.

Mr. Cunningham: Six years you have been waiting for it.

Mr. Gillies: We were waiting for years. I took my seat in the House last year and now the next 12-kilometre section is being initiated in the month of May, so I look forward to that too.

I would say in summation that one of the biggest problems my community has faced in this past number of months is one of distortion on the part of the media, particularly the Toronto media, of the situation in my riding. There have been press reports that have been inaccurate and unfair in the picture they have painted of my community. As a community we have all pulled together to try to correct that situation.

As the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) and a number of others have said, we are not here to talk about what the Conservative Party, the Liberal Party or the New Democratic Party can or cannot do about the employment situation. We are here to talk about interest rates, jobs and the issues that affect the people in our constituencies, and they frankly do not give a damn what party label we attach to ourselves. I suggest that as this debate continues every member who has an idea to contribute, or a thought to share, does so without undue consideration for the political marks to be gained.

Mr. Breaugh: I have a point of order, Mr. Speaker. It is customary in these emergency debates that the minister responsible will either lead off or wind up. I would like to see unanimous consent from the House that we now hear from the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) who is responsible for employment in Ontario.

The Acting Speaker: It may be customary but I do not believe it is in the standing orders—well, unless you have unanimous consent. The House can do anything.

Mr. Breaugh: Would you put that question to the House?

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I will defer to my colleague the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. Newman), in whose riding there are a great deal of unemployment and very serious problems.

Mr. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I rise to take part in this debate because the city of Windsor has probably been hit harder than any other city in Canada. When one considers the number of people who have left the community, of those who have walked away from their homes and the number of people who are looking for any type of job opportunity, one really gets scared. It is reminiscent of the Depression days of 1929 up to approximately 1935 or 1936.

I recall speaking to this House back in 1960 and bringing to the attention of the government the plight of the city of Windsor. Looking through the newspapers in my community, I read that on November 16, 1981, 15,000 people moved from the city of Windsor because of lack of job opportunities. That is a frightening number and it has been increasing over the past three or four months. This is solely because the opportunities are not there, so that they have no recourse but to move to other parts of Canada, in the hope that their fortunes will improve.

The mass exodus has been generally of those who have the marketable skills, who could make a contribution to our economy. The Tory government has to take its share of the blame for it because they have been over there for 39 years. You would think that in that 39-year period they would have learned a way to overcome mass unemployment in a given area and that they would have tried to overcome it by either an influx of moneys or by implementing new work programs devised by some of their experts.

As a result of the mass exodus, fewer people are buying goods in Windsor's stores or attending Windsor's theatres. More classrooms are empty, more apartments are left vacant, more development projects are on hold simply as a result of mass unemployment. All this places an ever-heavier burden on the municipal property tax.

In October unemployment in the city was 16,793, for an estimated 13.5 per cent. The latest statistics to come along give the unemployment figure as 20,791 as of February; 16.8 per cent of the work force in the community cannot find a job. It is a real disgrace and a condemnation of this government for not applying itself and finding some types of projects it could have put into the local community. When it comes to

providing certain skilled training centres and so forth, they have gone to other parts of the province, whereas the automotive capital of Canada, Windsor, was neglected by this government.

The welfare rolls in the city of Windsor have always been over 5,200. In fact, they have gone up to as high as almost 7,000 people seeking welfare. When one considers it is about four point something number of people that each individual on welfare represents, one can see the number of people who are adversely affected as a result of mass unemployment.

Real estate sales have really plummeted in the community. In fact, sales in the community for the month of October are down from 317 sales in the previous year, which was also a bit of a tough year, to 134. Because of the mass unemployment, we find more and more people are losing their homes. The statistics from the Essex County Real Estate Board indicate that 425 properties were offered under power of sale in mid-January compared with only 250 in September. So one can see the effects of this mass unemployment.

The mortgage manager of Pedlar Real Estate says: "I have been in business 20 years and I have never seen a situation like this. You have to go back to the 1930s to see this number of homes repossessed." Even bank and trust companies holding mortgages now hesitate even to apply for a writ of possession because they cannot do anything with the home even when they do repossess it. Mr. Gil Comartin, the

chairman of the mayor's committee on the unemployed, said, "A number of people have walked into the bank or trust company, dropped the keys on the table and simply walked out." They walked away from their most cherished possession, the home.

The Windsor branch of the unemployment centre says, "The number of people looking for work in February is 20,793." I could keep on mentioning the numbers of unemployed and the hardship created. The number of people losing homes in the last month jumped 70 per cent. There are answers to this. There happens to be a company in Windsor known as AFS, which is breaking new ground but it is barely holding its head above water simply because it cannot get assistance from this provincial government. The company is Alternate Fuel Systems, which produces dual-fuel carburetors for automobiles.

Part of the problem is as a result of the content used in the manufacture of vehicles. I can recall back in the mid-1960s speaking at a meeting at Cleary Auditorium in which I said that our balance of payments should not be in dollars but in hours of work actually created by the job. If we import materials containing one million hours of work from the States, then we should export from Canada one million hours of labour content. If we use the labour content concept, plus possibly the value of the article, then we might have part of an answer to the problems of the automotive industry.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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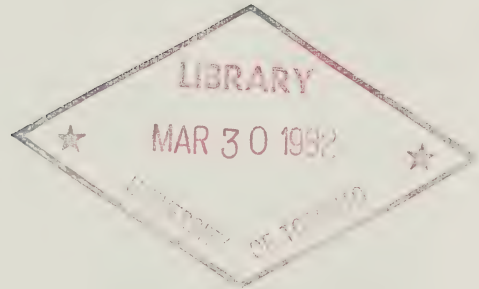


Ontario, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 3

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Thursday, March 11, 1982

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Thursday, March 11, 1982

The House resumed at 8:02 p.m.

INTERIM SUPPLY

Hon. F. S. Miller, seconded by Hon. Mr. Wells, moved resolution 3:

That the Treasurer of Ontario be authorized to pay the salaries of the civil servants and other necessary payments pending the voting of supply for the period commencing April 1, 1982, and ending June 30, 1982, such payments to be charged to the proper appropriation following the voting of supply.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I am certainly happy to see, after our recent layoff from this chamber, the enthusiasm with which members have flocked back to the first night sitting. No doubt they knew I would be speaking and that is the reason for the vast attendance this evening.

Before I deal with the substantive matters of the resolution before us I would like to bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, perhaps by way of a point of order, the fact of the resolution itself. You are aware that we are still dealing with the estimates from the last fiscal year, April 1981 to April 1982, which means, in effect, that we are dealing with the budgetary provisions and estimates, presumably, that we have voted for or will vote for to the end of March 31, 1982. This resolution is asking us to vote interim supply to June 30, 1982, to vote sums of money to pay the expenses of the government with matters which we have not had before us in a budget paper and which we have not had tabled before us in the various estimates relating to the ministry and the overall budget of Ontario.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that you are being besieged by various people, but I am raising a point of order with you that I hope you will deal with. I would repeat the point that in ordinary occasions when we are dealing with interim payments there has been a budget before us, there has been a book of estimates, we have known what the fiscal program of the government is and we have been voting to allow the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) to make those payments for three or six months to deal with them. Yet at this time, we are trying to bridge the gap between the last fiscal year, 1981-82, and the coming fiscal year, 1982-83.

We in the opposition have no idea what the budgetary plan of the government of Ontario is. We are being asked to approve expenditures without any foreknowledge of the direction those expenditures will be taking and the impact they will have on the people of Ontario.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that you look into that matter because this government, since the realities of March 19 of a year or so ago, has taken to playing somewhat fast and loose with the rules of the Legislature, setting precedents that will come back to haunt all of us. I want to draw to your attention, sir, that this is a unique experience in my years in the Legislature, being asked to vote interim supply for a period before the budget and the estimates are before the House.

Having said that, I get to the substantive part of the motion which is to give the government authority for expenditures until June 30, 1982.

In the history of the democratic process, estimates have been voted after careful consideration by the Legislature where the government has defended its policies and programs, and if the Legislature is satisfied it deserves to have the moneys to carry on the business of the government. That somewhat outmoded principle is still with us. In fact it still retains some of its validity.

I find myself in the position of being asked to give the Treasurer a blank cheque to cover the expenditures of the province for the next three months. We have had today, after a layoff of almost three months, questions in the Legislature on the urgent matters facing the people of Ontario and I would say we have had no cogent answers to those pressing problems.

We in the opposition were asking the Treasurer what he intended to do about the 375,000 people recorded as being unemployed in Ontario, what specific measures he was about to bring in to provide some relief for those people and create some jobs in the province. We were referred vaguely to the speech from the throne which we were forced to sit and listen to last Tuesday. Yet we found the Treasurer, in his responses to our questions today, giving us nothing but a perhaps very positive and accurate description of myself as a member of this Legislature, but little in terms of what policies he and the government are about to bring forward.

It is interesting that we are being asked to give authority to the Treasurer for these expenditures, not only to his ministry but to all ministries. I draw attention to the fact that the Treasurer in all his economic forecasts as evidenced in his 1981 budget was probably as far off the mark as one could get. He predicted there would be 6.6 per cent unemployment in Ontario. The recent figures show 7.6 per cent and I gather there will be figures released tomorrow which will probably indicate that figure is even higher.

I have a number of memos from the Treasurer that were put out under the aegis of his office that make interesting reading for those who are interested in history.

8:10 p.m.

I refer to Ontario Business Magazine, December 1981, which is not that long ago. The headline on page 9 is, "Queen's Park Report." The subheadline is, "Miller Predicts Interest Rates to Fall as Low as 14 Per Cent." "Ontario Treasurer Miller predicts that interest rates in Ontario 'will drop as low as 14 per cent within the next couple of months.'"

Those couple of months have come and gone and the Treasurer's forecasts as usual were not very accurate. It is of concern to us that there are 375,000 people out of work, people are in danger of losing their homes and farmers are in very distraught conditions.

If there is some concern over there that farmers are not having a problem I can tell them farmers in the Rainy River district are having those difficulties. A man is leaving his home and his farm to travel 1,000 miles to North Bay to get a job so he can keep his farm going. We have those problems.

We have problems, as outlined by my leader this morning, about small business and the fact that perhaps up to 80,000 small businessmen consider they may be in dire straits and may have to go out of business. We had the leader of the Liberal Party go through the list of layoffs totalling something like 5,700 in the last few months: 600 at Algoma Steel; 165 at Resnick Canada; 35 at Sara Coventry Ltd.; 140 at Domtar; 1,600 at Polysar; 110 at Wabco Equipment; and 775 at Boise Cascade.

I would just interject there about the \$200 million the governments of Canada and Ontario put into the pulp and paper industry and we are now seeing these massive layoffs in that industry.

There are 60 people at Pedlar Storage; 475 at de Havilland Aircraft; 270 at Franklin Manufac-

turing; 170 at Hussmann Store Equipment, 75 at Pamour Porcupine Mines; 40 at Caterpillar; 130 at Silknit; 55 at Canada Sand Papers and the list goes on and on. We had no response today from the Treasurer about what he was going to do about this.

Mr. Philip: The member's federal counterparts would have sold the plant. We would not have had any jobs.

Mr. T. P. Reid: I hear some nattering in the background.

I find after three months away from this Legislature, three months for the 70,000 plus civil servants who are under the direct rule, recall and authority of the people opposite, of the 900 plus in the Treasurer's own department, plus the people in the new Ministry of Industry and Trade Development, all those people who are associated with the BILD program—and I repeat it is not BILD, it is bilge. We know what bilge is in a ship. There are a lot of holes that let stuff come in and go out and that is about the size of that program.

All of that and a \$20-billion budget besides, yet the Treasurer stood in his place today and gave the people of Ontario, particularly those who are unemployed, no answers at all as to what job creation he is going to come up with.

We had the speech from the throne. We all know that under ordinary circumstances that is a vague melange of promises that the government trots out every throne speech opening. But these are not the ordinary salad days of the Conservative government. These are very serious days indeed that we have to deal with.

Politics aside, as other members have said today, we are all disappointed the government of Ontario has not accepted its responsibilities in the way it should to do something about the situation facing Ontario.

Where is the creativity of all those civil servants, all those members opposite and the Treasurer and his staff to do something with these serious problems of interest rates that are affecting small business, the farmers and the home owners and which have put 375,000 people out of work?

I tried to ascertain from the Treasurer some idea of what his priorities are, and whether he saw inflation as still the principal problem that he outlined in some of his previous budgets and subsequent statements. Is it inflation, or is it the unemployment situation in this province? The Treasurer's answer to that was, "I suppose the public of Ontario think it is unemployment." I never really understood where the Treasurer's

priorities were, and I think the people of Ontario want to know that. Is he still concerned primarily with inflation, or is he concerned with unemployment in Ontario and the destruction that that is causing to the fabric of our society?

Mr. Elston: Maybe he does not know.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Probably he does not know. I have been reading with great interest a number of the budget papers put out in the name of the Treasurer, including the discussion paper on interest rate policy. It is interesting to read that document because it is at odds with a great deal of the Treasurer's comments about the current economic situation.

But here we are. We are being asked to grant interim supply for three months. I suppose if we divvy it up on the basis of last year's budget, based on very simple arithmetic we will find we are giving the Treasurer authority to spend \$5 billion without much scrutiny by this Legislature, and without much idea of how the Treasurer intends to use that money for directing economic policy in Ontario. I would hope that before the debate is finished, Mr. Speaker, you would deal with my point of order as to whether this is the correct procedure, given the fact that these two fiscal years are verging closely.

I pointed out during question period that the Treasury and Economics department has a budget in excess of \$2 billion—\$2,134,900,000 to be exact—in the present fiscal year. As well, Industry and Trade Development has a budget of \$122 million. We cannot help but wonder what programs the minister and his colleagues will come up with in this coming fiscal year. If all we have to go on is the throne speech, God help the people of Ontario. As somebody who was not a member of this Legislature but a guest in the Speaker's gallery on Tuesday said, "The government is really hard up when they have to start reading the bus schedule into the speech from the throne."

So it is with some trepidation that I say we will support the interim supply. We do not want to deter the Treasurer and his staff from coming up with some creative measures to deal with the problems facing the people of Ontario, and we hope we will have a budget before the end of April, which I gather is what we are looking at now. However, in any case, late in April or early in May the people will know in what direction we are going to go with a budget.

I would hope that the Treasurer would be able to tell us more specifically when the people may know what we are going to be doing in Ontario to deal with the severe economic

strains. As we all know in this assembly and elsewhere, it is the problem of not knowing what is going to happen that often bothers people more than the knowing. The way things are going, however, maybe that philosophy will no longer prevail.

I reiterate that we are not going to block interim supply. We recall this has happened before—that there has been an attempt to do this. That was because we felt we had not been consulted and that the government was being given too much leeway. There is already too much government in this province by special warrants and by government decree. There is too much secrecy in matters surrounding Suncor and the dividends that we will, no doubt, hear about in the near future.

But we on this side and in this party want the Treasurer to get on with what he is doing. We want to speed up the process so we will have a budget that is going to help the people of Ontario; that is going to help the 375,000 who are unemployed; is going to help the small businessman who may have to go out of business or is feeling the interest rate crunch; is going to help the small home owner who is having a great deal of difficulty dealing with the high interest rates and renewal of mortgages, particularly the instances outlined earlier by my friend the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. Newman) and the farmer who may be forced off the farm because of the high interest rates.

8:20 p.m.

The farmers were out here today, and members may have seen them, complaining that only 25 per cent of them were having problems now. The problems that only 25 per cent have today are going up radically and greatly every day.

We are not going to block interim supply. We want the Treasurer to get on with the business of governing Ontario and creating new programs so that all these people in the province can be assisted.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Port Arthur.

Mr. Foulds: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Boudria: Pretty weak.

Mr. Stokes: I'll say it was.

Mr. Foulds: Are you talking about your colleague's contribution?

Mr. Boudria: No, I am talking about the applause for you.

Mr. Stokes: You haven't heard anything yet.

Mr. Foulds: Let the record show that the

honourable member sitting directly behind the Treasury critic for the Liberal Party indicated that his contribution was pretty weak.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, to correct the record, that is not correct.

Mr. Foulds: Do you want to withdraw the remark?

Mr. Boudria: No, I do not want to correct the remark but I think the member over there is insinuating that I have made some derogatory remarks about one of my—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Port Arthur has the floor.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, we have before us a motion for interim supply, and as the previous speaker has indicated, it comes to us under unusual circumstances. We are being asked to vote for three months' expenditure for the government when really the budgetary year has not started. In other words, we are being asked to vote blind.

I must congratulate the government for bringing in the motion in plenty of time, before the guillotine of the deadline that faced us the last time we discussed interim supply is so sharp and real.

Mr. Philip: They have learned something.

Mr. Foulds: They have learned something in terms of parliamentary process. They have not learned one thing, however. They have not yet learned to be open with the people of Ontario or with this Legislature in terms of what is entailed in this expenditure.

My colleagues in the New Democratic Party and I do not wish to block the vote. We will be voting for interim supply. However, because of the unusual circumstances a number of my colleagues do wish to make statements about particular matters having to do with the budgetary policy of this government. We have had a speech from the throne but we have not had a budget speech, and the indications that we have had from the speech from the throne are not encouraging. The government has decided what the expense side of the government budget will be. That has been set. The estimates are all completed. We are still getting dribbles and drabbles of supplementary estimates for last year, for the year we are about to conclude, which I gather we will not be debating until the new fiscal year begins.

So we get this kind of blending, this kind of phantom budgetary policy and fiscal year. It is as if the Treasurer has taken a leaf out of the book of his friend, the Minister of Natural

Resources (Mr. Pope), the portfolio he himself used to hold. The present Minister of Natural Resources is concerned very much these days with strategic land-use plans in the province, and they are called SLUP for short. The Treasurer appears to be concerned with just a slight change in that acronym; the U becomes an O and he is concerned with slop and slopover with regard to budgetary policy.

We have rumours and almost deliberate leaks from the government, from the Treasurer himself, from the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman), saying, "We are probably going to have to raise the OHIP premiums." We expect that as usual those people who unfortunately have the desire to smoke and have an alcoholic beverage will be paying even greater taxes because no one dares to complain about that. To use a cliché, we are being asked to vote for a pig in a poke because we do not know what is coming up. We suspect we are voting for approximately \$5 billion.

The throne speech attack on the current state of interest rates was for me most interesting. I want to quote that page in its entirety. I referred to it earlier today in question period. The text of that one page makes very interesting reading:

"But, more recently, we have been asked by the federal government to bear the additional burden of high interest rates. High interest rates remove incentive, make risk less attractive, particularly to the small business community, and as a result cause homes and farms to be lost or make it impossible for many of our citizens to even contemplate owning a house. They," high interest rates, "limit investment, reduce consumer purchases and reduce the demand for manufactured and other products to which employment in this province is so closely tied."

That is not a bad analysis even if it comes a little late, even if it comes far too late, even if it comes as a sort of gradual repentance and a reversal of policy by the minister who so enthusiastically endorsed the high interest rates of the federal government just a few short months ago.

To continue: "At the first ministers' meeting on the economy, held just over one month ago, the Prime Minister and his Minister of Finance set out the reasons why they were maintaining a high interest rate policy for Canada and suggested that certain consequences would follow if this approach were not maintained. One province after another outlined massive unemployment and slowdown in economic activity

that was being caused by the federal policy and stated that the human and social costs arising from such a policy were unacceptable."

I am sure the Treasurer recognizes that 35 cents will buy the people feeling those social consequences a cup of coffee in the Legislative dining room, presuming they can get in there.

"In spite of this united opposition, the government of Canada remained firm in its position that its current monetary policy, with all the hardships it causes, must be maintained if inflation is to be brought under control."

The speech from the throne then went on to engage in a fair amount of fed bashing. What puzzles me is that this Treasurer and this government come up with no concrete suggestions or proposals before this Legislature, now or in the past—or presumably in the future—to tackle the high interest-rate problem.

Frankly, if Allan MacEachen has imported into Canada the economic theories from south of the border known as Reaganomics, the Treasurer of Ontario has imported into this province in true branch plant fashion the economics of Ronald Reagan's old movie time buddy, Bonzo the chimpanzee. What we have in Ontario is Bonzonomics. What does Bonzonomics mean? Bonzonomics means just the kind of analysis the government had in its own speech from the throne that it failed to deal with—it means loss of homes, loss of farms and farming capacity, loss of small businesses throughout this province; and it means ultimately tragic and thorough unemployment.

8:30 p.m.

One of the things we have to keep in mind is that the economy is not some abstract thing out there, not some abstract principle to which we sacrifice people because it is a god that must be served. We have to get back to the basic principle, the basic idea that we create an economy to serve the needs of the people. Neither the federal Liberal government nor this Conservative government have taken any initiatives within the scope of their own legislative authority, within the scope of their own jurisdiction, to serve the needs of the working people of this province, to serve the needs of small business, to serve the needs of farmers or to serve the needs of home owners.

I would have liked the provincial government and the Treasurer to make an opening statement in this debate since we are not going to get a budget and since the Treasurer seems to be like a tortoise, postponing the day on which we will receive a budget. I would have liked to see

the Treasurer introduce some programs in his jurisdiction that we in Ontario have the authority to implement to deal with the high interest rate problem.

One of the ways we could do that and one of the benefits that would result if we did that would be that when he went to do his fed bashing, when he went to the first ministers' conference, when he went to Ottawa to tell them they had to do something, he would have had some armour in his pocket; he would have had something to negotiate with. He could have said to Allan MacEachen and the feds: "We have taken action here in Ontario. We have done what we can do within our jurisdiction. Now you beggars at the federal level should take the steps that you can rightly take and only the federal government can take in order to relieve the massive, tragic circumstances that arise because of high interest rates."

If I may, I want just for a few minutes to outline some of the consequences that have resulted in this province from the inaction of both of these senior levels of government. It is a well-known figure, and it has been banded about many times today already, that the actual number of unemployed people in Ontario was something like 375,000, 17 per cent higher than in January of last year.

This afternoon I used one image; let me use another image tonight. What that means, what that massive loss of jobs is the equivalent of, is simply this: shutting down entirely a city the size of Hamilton—every corner grocery, every plant, every office, every job in the place gone. That is what unemployment means in Ontario today and that is a major disaster.

Mr. Wildman: Isn't that what Stephenson wanted to do in Windsor?

Mr. Foulds: That is what a number of people want to do, and that is what the government in particular is letting happen to communities all across this province.

The tragedy of that is twofold. It is not only the unemployment and it is not only the job loss because of this stupid, blind commitment to a high interest-rate policy which this provincial government went along with for many months and only now, like a tortoise, is slowly reversing because it is politically expedient to do so but still sits by silently like some guileless and innocent virgin wringing its hands and saying it can do nothing. What it means in real terms is a loss to Ontario families in income of something like \$7 billion in wages. That is a loss to the provincial treasury of over \$300 million in personal income tax alone.

As well, we have those tragic human costs that my colleague from Windsor, my colleague from Metro Toronto and my colleague from Algoma have documented right across this province—the tragedy in broken lives, broken homes, broken marriages, broken families, hopes and dreams. What happens to our society when young people—and there are 171,000 unemployed people under 21—are denied the opportunity to work? What happens to the collective morale of a society when our young people lose hope?

We all know what happens, not only to those individuals but to our society, and we know the additional cost to our society, not merely in unemployment insurance, not merely in welfare payments, but in terms of additional vandalism, additional crime and additional costs for retribution in our society. We know those tragic social consequences when towns die, the one-industry towns of northern Ontario that my colleague, the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), and my colleague, the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman), speak so movingly about and know so well because in their ridings they are living with those problems every single day.

What happens is that people migrate out of those towns looking for work and eventually they come to the larger cities. Eventually they come to a metropolitan centre like Toronto, and the enormous social costs and social problems build and build. Unless there is action taken by this government, we do not and cannot slough off the spectre that now haunts many of the American cities. Up until now, we have been very proud of saying that could not happen here. The reality is that because of the lack of action and because of the endorsement of American policies we will be inheriting the results of those American policies in our large urban centres. That is not the kind of future I want to see for this province. It is not the kind of future the New Democratic Party wants to see for this province. It is the kind of future we will fight against with every legislative means at our disposal.

I want briefly to outline the key points of what we could do here in Ontario to combat the problem of high interest rates. It is no good pointing a hand at the feds and saying, "You guys do something." It is no good having the feds point back at the provinces saying, "You guys do something." It is no good when they are in the same room, whether they are before television cameras or not, flailing each other

because the people who get caught in between are the people we were all elected to serve. I regret to say, with some sense of shame, the government in Ontario has done little to serve the needs of those people.

Other action has been demonstrated in other jurisdictions in this country at the provincial level. I do not want to go into a lot of detail because some of my colleagues will be dealing with each of those programs in some detail, but we could take five simple steps. Number one is the step this party has advocated for a long time in this Legislature. My colleague, the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick), has introduced some private member's bills that would achieve that result.

The governments of Saskatchewan and of Manitoba have indicated some steps that could be taken to deal with the interest rate problem. One is a one-year moratorium on foreclosures. We know this is just buying time; we know this is a temporary measure, but it is something that would give temporary and immediate relief. Two, if it is not beneath our dignity, we could take the lead from a province like Manitoba and introduce a program of short-term interest-rate relief for farmers, small businesses and home owners.

8:40 p.m.

With regard to home owners, we have about 250,000 mortgages coming due in Ontario in 1982. Of these, something like 30,000 home owners in this province will face serious problems in renewing those mortgages. In other words, their housing costs when they renew their mortgages at the rate they will be charged will be above 30 per cent of their gross income. Those will be problem mortgages. A large number of those people will not be able to meet their mortgages and they will lose their homes. Those homes, as is already happening across this province, will sit empty and idle while those people seek accommodation from the social sector, from the Ontario Housing Corporation, and there are no units available there.

We estimate that the program of short-term interest-rate relief for farmers, small businesses and home owners would cost something like \$200 million. Fifty million dollars would be spent on the home owners, and that would assist those 30,000 families. Of the \$200 million, \$100 million, or half, would be spent on Ontario's farmers. The provincial government has already introduced a \$60-million program, but there are two significant problems with the Ontario government program. First, the debt equity eligibil-

ity criterion is too restrictive, excluding as it does the vast majority of Ontario's farmers. Second, the government's refusal to provide assistance on fixed-interest, long-term loans that are being renegotiated at a much higher rate greatly limits the effectiveness of the program.

The big problem that comes up is, where is the government going to get the \$200 million? One of the government's problems is that it has already predetermined or limited its range of action because of some hasty and ill-thought-out solutions.

I would not be surprised to see the Treasurer of Ontario, if he had any sense of principle, resign within the next year because he, like Darcy McKeough before him, is getting his policies and his principles crushed or reversed by the government. First, as is well known, the Treasurer vigorously opposed the buying of Suncor. What his reasons were I do not know, and what the reasons were that the government bought Suncor we do not know to this day. This is one of the very good reasons we should have a freedom of information act in this province.

If the government is going to buy into a resource company that is foreign-owned, it at least had better get the benefits of buying and should go for 51 per cent so it has control. What the government has got is 25 per cent of an American company whose investments are dropping and whose return on investment is dropping. The government has made a very bad investment. It did not tie up its consortium ahead of time so it would get 51 per cent Canadianization. What it is going to get stuck with is a very bad investment. The purchase of Suncor has precluded \$650 million that could be used for things like giving the people of Ontario mortgage—small businesses, farmers—interest relief.

The third plank in our platform would be the housing sector. What we need to do, as I indicated this afternoon, is to make a commitment to developing housing in this province in the co-op sector, in the social assistance sector, in the apartment sector, so that we can provide places for people who desperately need housing, we can create jobs in the construction industry and we can get the economy of the lumber and sawmill industry towns in northern Ontario stimulated. I do not want any comeback saying the reason is they cannot sell the lumber to the United States. The people in northern Ontario would be glad to sell the

lumber from their sawmills to southern Ontario just as easily and just as readily as they would to a foreign market.

The fourth point of the program would be to devise a series of additional taxes, none too great, but speculation taxes, for example, on housing, to get the funding for the program. A most important point is that this program we are suggesting is, we admit, a short-term program. What we need to do and what we will be speaking about when budget time comes, what my colleague from Windsor will be speaking about, is creating a difference in the kind of economy we have in Ontario so that we relate the resource sector to our manufacturing sector, so that we create the jobs here in Ontario and do not create the jobs, as the government is doing because of its predilection for bigness, in other countries.

Finally, and my colleague from Etobicoke will expand on this, we believe a real role could be played by the Province of Ontario Savings Office as a genuine bank. That institution has been around this province for a good many years, something like 40, if I am not mistaken.

Mr. Nixon: No, it is older than that.

Mr. Foulds: It is older than this government, quite a bit older.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Sixty years.

Mr. Foulds: It is almost 60 years old. My mathematics on my feet are not good, I admit.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Not almost. It is.

Mr. Foulds: This is its anniversary year as a matter of fact. That is true. It started in 1922.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Last year.

Mr. Foulds: In any event, what this government has done is systematically downgrade the importance of the Province of Ontario Savings Office. It has downgraded its capabilities, closed branches. We say we should be expanding that to a fully fledged financial institution that would work with the co-operative movement and the credit unions to create competition for the other banks that operate in Ontario.

What we say is that we should get into the business through that institution of providing, perhaps on a more long-term basis, the right kind of interest rates for people in small businesses, for farmers and for home owners on a permanent basis. After all, it is not some wild-eyed idea of a left-wing ideologue. It was created in this province. Alberta has a Bank of Alberta that has more branches in it than any other chartered bank of the country and provides the kind of service that is needed so badly.

I just want to conclude with a few brief remarks about the Treasurer and about the government's economic policy. There is no doubt in my mind that the federal government has a lot to answer for. There is no doubt in my mind that it does no good in a throne speech in this province to take rhetorical flights of attack on the federal government unless this government is willing to bring in some programs of its own to demonstrate good faith to the people of Ontario.

8:50 p.m.

It seems to me that governments have an obligation to take the steps they can take in their jurisdiction. The greatest failure of this government is that it blows a lot of hot air; that it fails to take the steps of action that it is not only morally obliged to take but has the legal authority to take. It has failed the people of Ontario because it lacks the political will, the political skill and the sense of economic direction to take those steps on behalf of the people of Ontario. It is about time we had in this province the kind of government the people of this province deserve, the kind of government that would put people ahead of profits.

Mr. Boudria: A Liberal government. Every province deserves that, as the member will notice.

Mr. Foulds: If I may just say, in response to the interjection from my friend on the right and his party of the far right, the Ontario Liberal Party, it has been demonstrated right across the country that no province deserves to have a Liberal government federally and provincially. That is the great tragedy of Ontario because it has at the present time, in the disguise of the Progressive Conservatives, a Liberal government.

Mr. Nixon: The motion before us, when approved, will authorize the expenditure of \$5 billion between now and the end of June. The money will be spent at a rate of about \$16 million a day for health services, about \$14 million a day for education and somewhere between \$5 million and \$9 million a day on interest, depending on whether we include the debt of Ontario Hydro in our calculations. It is an interesting aspect, as well, that of the \$5 billion we will be authorizing during the next three months, almost \$2.25 billion will be collected by the government of Canada and transferred to the government of Ontario with no strings attached.

Sometimes I am amazed, if not appalled, that

even though this high level of support for the programs of the province has been established for a good long time and has grown over a number of years, still the governments of Ontario and some other provinces continue with their diatribes of criticism against the senior level of government, which pays half the costs of post-secondary education, including grade 13, half the costs of our total commitment to medical care and, in fact, when the calculations are done for Ontario, it is considerably more than half. Through the Canada assistance program, they pay a substantial share, more than 50 per cent, of a number of our community and social programs.

But it is not for me to defend the government of Canada. Their most recent defence at the polls of their policies and their positions with regard to national policies saw the Liberals returned with a substantial majority.

The whole problem of interest rates is probably summed up, as well as by anybody, by Michael Wilson, who is the federal Conservative critic for financial affairs. It is interesting to note that he supports entirely the interest-rate policy of the government of Canada and of the Bank of Canada itself. Frankly, I do not feel that those policies are good ones, but I say again that it is very easy for provincial oppositions, just as it is easy for provincial governments, to criticize those federal policies.

In many respects I believe Mr. Wilson deserves a good deal of credit for not falling into the trap that most of the provincial premiers have found at least comfortable for the time being. They are trying to solve their own problems and taking the political heat off themselves by pointing the quivering finger and the trembling lip at federal policies when they have none of their own to insert in their place.

I simply want to begin my remarks by reminding members that for all of these years the government of Canada has been collecting about 40 per cent of the revenues spent by the province of Ontario and transferring them to the province with no strings attached. It has actually been for two decades that the present Premier (Mr. Davis) has had an important role to play in our educational and then finally overall administrative affairs—day by day as another William G. Davis school is opened and the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) opens another bridge over the Grand River at Brantford.

There are new programs to assist the industries of the north and elsewhere. Close to 50 per

cent of the dollars are raised by the government of Canada and handed over, no strings attached, to the ingrates who have had the responsibility of governing our affairs in this province for these almost 40 long years. It really is almost a joke to hear the Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. F. S. Miller) warn that he is going to establish his own income tax collection system.

Mr. Bradley: It will never happen.

Mr. Nixon: I would agree with my colleague, the member for St. Catharines. It will never happen. They have been sitting in this beautiful nest of millions of dollars each year, feathered at no political cost to the Tories in Ontario by the government of Canada, even by the Tory government of Canada, going back into Mr. Diefenbaker's years. It is a very easy and in some respects a destructive position for the government of Ontario and other provinces as well to use their cynical approach of calling for a resumption of what they cynically called co-operative federalism, when at the same time they have been using the avails of this particular neat arrangement to bludgeon the government of Canada these many years and using it as a political whipping boy for their own provincial inadequacies.

I am concerned particularly at the response made by the Treasurer to the first question by my leader today with reference to the timing of the provincial budget. For one thing, we are far too late in returning to the Legislature after the Christmas recess. I believe at the very latest we should come back here the last week in January. It seems to me we are far too long here in the Legislature and far too long away.

It does not seem proper to me when the economy of the province is suffering as it does that we adjourn, I admit with great relief, just before Christmas and then stay in our constituencies or in some cases in our condominiums in Fort Lauderdale for the full two- to three-month period until we finally get wound up here at Queen's Park once again. Then we only just barely get started when we close the place down again for a week as we go off with our children—those of us who have school-aged children—for the school break.

Frankly, I get as bored and tired of this place as anyone does, but I would think the Treasurer, with his judgement, would realize that having delayed the opening of the Legislature this unconscionably long time, it really is unacceptable for him to continue to delay the introduction of the new budget. I expected that the date of the budget would have been announced

almost in conjunction with the speech from the throne. For him to respond to my leader today the way he did with some sort of a putdown about, "I cannot introduce it until the throne debate is over," was unworthy of him. I hope when he gets home tonight his wife will let him know that even from an objective point of view it was an asinine response with a capital A.

As a matter of fact, in trying to determine when the budget is going to be brought down, there is some indication that it will not be until well after the middle of April, and in many respects we will be conducting our affairs here in limbo without knowing the financial plans of the Treasurer and the province of Ontario.

Frankly, I believe it is because he cannot make up his mind. We know we are in difficult times. He knows the money is hard to come by, but still there is going to be in excess of \$21 billion for him to establish and spend through various priorities. I do not want to be unkind about this but while I am a personal fan of the Treasurer I am not a fan of his ability in his office.

9 p.m.

I think he would make a great Minister of—well, I don't know—not Health, but Correctional Services or something like that. I do not want to be insulting because all those offices are important, but I am frankly surprised that in the cabinet shuffle a few weeks ago the Treasurer was not granted some new, let's say, responsibilities in a lateral shift from the Treasury.

Certainly it is not for want of people who were anxious to move into his job. The Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe) is satisfied with what he is doing and the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells) cannot believe he has got such a soft touch, with practically nothing to do but visit his offices in Paris and Brussels and things like that. But I believe the lack of leadership from the Treasury is a matter of serious concern, not only to those of us in this Legislature but to the business community of the province.

He should be champing at the bit to put forward his spending and taxing proposals that will have such an important effect on the economy of this province. Frankly, it was refreshing to hear the former Treasurer, Darcy McKeough, dive into the political waters again to some extent. I cannot believe he is really interested in returning to active politics, although there is the huge vacuum in the federal leadership of the PC party and there is a good deal of stirring in that regard. But when Darcy said we

really do have to have some means whereby the federal and provincial jurisdictions can for once separate their responsibilities and get off each other's backs, I have a great deal of sympathy for what he has to say.

This business of passing the responsibility from one side to the other—and I know it happens at the federal level as well—is really unacceptable. Maybe it is all right in good times where there are resources we can use to expand our tax base to pay for new programs that are needed in a burgeoning and expanding community, but it is not acceptable when the economic crunch really comes.

For 20 years, I have often felt that what we do in this House is something of a game. We took shots at each other perhaps, but we knew the province and the nation were economically buoyant, our economy was expanding, our opportunities for young people were there and growing. Perhaps for the first time most of us have felt during the last month that that has gone and we might as well look at the concept of depression and look it full in the face, because it is facing us. It is something we have to come to grips with. For that reason, I was delighted that my leader was successful in having a special debate this afternoon, which in some respects is continuing in this debate. Because of the time limitations in the debate this afternoon, many members, and I hope many on the government side as well, were not able to participate then but can participate now.

I want to be rather specific about one or two points and I want to make the first one again. The Treasurer should not delay bringing down his budget. He should indicate a date and he should draw a line under the consultations he has been so proud of having made during the last weeks and months. He is the only one who can assess the value of those consultations. We will be able to criticize them and assess them when he sees the results of those consultations. In fact, it is up to him, essentially him, with whatever direct and political advice he wants to draw from the politicians immediately around him, what decisions are made.

There is a considerable amount of freedom of action. We need only go back to, let us say, 1975 to see that the Treasurer then found a good deal of flexibility in the budget of the day to bring in very popular programs. While they were political in nature, they were designed to stimulate the economy and in some instances they did. This immobilization of the Treasurer in his thought processes is something we cannot afford in this province.

I want simply to reassert that the House has been in recess since December. Here we are in the middle of March and we still do not know when the budget is going to be brought down. I want to say in the strongest possible terms that the date must be set and it must be as early as is practical.

The second point I want to make is a local one as far as I am concerned, but it certainly extends into southwestern Ontario. The economic plight of the farmers is a serious matter indeed. I happen to be a working farmer myself. The fact that I drive a tractor more than I run a pitchfork probably has something to do with certain anatomical problems the members may have noticed.

Mr. Philip: You use the pitchfork in here often enough.

Mr. Nixon: I would say the calluses are certainly not on my hands but probably elsewhere.

Our most recent experience on our own farm in South Dumfries township in Brant county is that the price of corn out of the field a year ago last fall was at \$4 and this fall the best we could do was \$2.80. The soybeans a year ago this past fall, out of the field, were \$10 a bushel. When we sold this year's crop the best I could do was \$6.70. There was a small rally over the last few days up to about \$6.90, but there is every indication the downward trend for corn and beans will continue.

Those happen to be the crops I am familiar with. My neighbours who are shipping milk and those who are raising beef cattle and swine are in serious straits indeed. The formula pricing for milk—and I see one or two of my dairy farmer friends sitting up in the back in their comfortable pews—is quite satisfactory.

My brother-in-law, who has a herd of 40 Ayrshire cows, might kick me if I were to imply he is satisfied with the price, but I believe it is fair and associated with the cost that can be attributable to that particular business. But those people who raise pigs and beef cattle are in terrible, terminal problems.

I talk to my neighbours who operate century farms and they are the newly arrived ones. There are neighbours who have grants from the Indians in the area and have been successfully farming all those years. They are facing bankruptcy in their farm operations. Think of the six generations where the sons and daughters have been educated in the best Ontario had to offer, where the family has had a standard of living second to none in the rural community, who

now find themselves under the economic stresses of the present day situation very much in fear of not even being able to continue on the land.

Those of you who are farmers and who talk to farmers know that is not an exaggeration. If, in instances where the master of the farm property is, let us say, 50, 60 or 70 years old, he may very well not have any interest payments to make. He may very well have some money in the bank and is bemoaning the fact he is not getting 19.5 or 20 per cent on his deposit certificates anymore and that the interest rates are way down to 14.5 per cent or something like that.

But most of the farmers, as the property passes from generation to generation, have kept up with the times. They have kept up the capital commitment to the assets of the farm in machinery and so on and they do have high interest payments to make. They look at the policies in other provinces and find themselves competing with farmers in other provinces at a severe disadvantage.

It is clearly not enough to point the finger of condemnation at the government of Canada when all provinces are subject to the same policy. Certain provinces, and Quebec is an outstanding example, have programs that assist farmers which are better than ours.

Hon. F. S. Miller: They are going bankrupt.

Mr. Nixon: It is true there are bankruptcies there as well and it is quite possible that farmers, and car dealers as well, can overextend. A car dealer with a bunch of Seattles sitting on his lot, paying interest on them until some patsy comes along to buy them, is in trouble. If he is a small car dealer in Baysville or somewhere like that with two or three used Chevettes, he may not be in too much trouble—two or three used Chevettes and a yellow Corvette I think—and probably that is okay.

But a businessman, whether he is a farmer or in any kind of retailing, can certainly get into trouble even though government programs are designed to assist him. The minister seems to think it is a justification of the lack of action in this province that some farmers in Quebec have also gone bankrupt. I do not believe that proves anything except there are bad businessmen in that province as well as here.

9:10 p.m.

We intend to put in a crop this year if we ever get out of this place, and maybe even while we are here. So if my seat is empty some time in May, members will know I am trying to feed the world's hungry as well as spend all their money.

But we are already making plans. A good neighbour of mine sells pioneer seed corn, and he delivered—they do not call them bags or bushels any more; they call them units of corn seed. The price over last year is up just about 18 to 20 per cent in spite of the fact the corn it grows fell from \$4 a bushel to about \$2.80. As a matter of fact it is lower than that now.

What the devil is going on? How can that be? The price of the spray, the Lasso and all those exotic materials which I never even knew how to pronounce let alone use and which I am now quite familiar with, is expected to go up something more than 25 per cent. I will give the minister a chance to interject and say the price of tractor fuel is going up tremendously as well and is of great concern to those of us who have to pay those elevated prices.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Federal government policy has caused that.

Mr. Nixon: Right. Thank you.

Mr. Mackenzie: They haven't any policies, either.

Mr. Nixon: I certainly did not want the minister to miss anything like that.

Meanwhile, our municipal taxes are going up by leaps and bounds and so no one reading Hansard will be misled—and there will be thousands who do read it—we might as well say that we are very glad indeed the policy of the government of Ontario is to pay back half the tax attributable to the farm operation. I believe there should be no taxes directed on the land at all. There is some indication that as we approach the next election we may even have a program, which has previously been announced, that implements something like that.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Long before.

Mr. Nixon: The problems in the farm area have been dealt with quite effectively, I believe, by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture special task force on agriculture. One of their recommendations, and it is one of the things the members on the other side pooh-pooh, is the special foreclosure moratorium for a period of six months. I have heard bankers respond to that by saying, "If there is going to be a moratorium the supply of credit is going to dry right up." Frankly, I do not believe that can happen or has to happen.

The people recommending the moratorium are not some wild-eyed radical Liberals. They are people like Everett Biggs, who for more years than we can count was Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food in the days when that

ministry had some leadership and some programs that were of some good to the farmer. They are people like John Wise, who was agriculture critic for the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada and a former Minister of Agriculture for this country. I should not finish a list of members of the task force without mentioning Murray Gaunt, whom some people opposite might think of as a wild-eyed radical; in fact, he is a moderate Liberal and a person with an extensive farm background who was an advocate of this program.

I believe we are talking not of simply cancelling farmers' debts or anything like that but of seeing that for a period of six months, when the maximum pressure is on them, foreclosures should not be permitted and the government should have a program so that the precious banks, who have to pay the window cleaners to clean all that glass on their 80-storey palaces downtown, are not going to lose any of their precious bucks. We will worry about them some other time, but we are concerned about the farmers in this connection.

There are those who believe that Canada has to build tariff walls around itself for protection. But we in this country, particularly with our farm produce and crops, have to have a market much larger than we can find here if we are going to get back to where we have sufficient profits to participate in the economy as a whole in any useful way.

That brings me to my next point. Those members who drive through Brant county into the grand city of Brantford, particularly if they come by train, will pass the largest combine plant in the world. It was constructed by Massey-Ferguson some years ago. Outside it is what is locally called the "Red Sea" because it is made up of huge \$100,000 combines parked butt to butt, waiting for a market. There is a good deal to be said about the Massey situation and I do not want to take time for that tonight—although as you know, Mr. Speaker, there is no time limit on this debate.

I am concerned, however, because of the situation involving the farmers, which I have described briefly, that I do not know very many of my neighbours who are going to go to the bank, with the prospects I have set out facing them, to borrow at 23 to 24 per cent the kind of money from the generous Bank of Montreal operating in St. George to buy a new combine. They are just not going to do it.

They may buy \$10 worth of baling wire and a lot of extra grease to keep the old old machines

together and going for another year. I have often heard people, commenting on farm machinery prospects, saying that eventually these combines and tractors are simply going to fall apart and then the farmers are going to have to buy new ones. But we are a long way from that point. The farmers have learned a good deal of ingenuity. One of the best lessons my dad ever taught me, next to beating Tories, was how to fix up farm machinery with baling wire and keep it working. Both of those have been extremely valuable lessons and both of them have put money in the bank.

But as far as Brantford is concerned, it has very unfairly gathered up the title of the layoff capital of Canada. My friend the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) winces a bit—I think he did; please wince; he winced—as I said that, because we feel rather sensitive about it.

Brantford has always had the problems that one-industry towns suffer from, going back to those great days of the prime ministership of the late Honourable Lester B. Pearson himself. Many members may recall the procedure whereby the federal government designated communities which were somewhat financially depressed. Even in those days Brantford got an early designation. The designation was associated with depressed areas and Brantford was a bit embarrassed to be known across Canada as one of the first to be designated a so-called depressed area.

As a matter of fact the designation stimulated a certain degree of secondary industry. The government of Ontario, in its wisdom, decided to build a bypass road, controlled-access Highway 403, and associated with that and the properties alongside it, we got some very good new industries with substantial additional employment. I do not want to go through the rather mixed history of the economic development of the city of Brantford either before or after that, other than to say that when the economy has a downturn, particularly the farm economy, Brantford suffers more than most other communities.

I have said the basic reason is that farmers simply cannot buy the tractors, combines, discs, mowers, cultivators and other machines that are made at Brantford or marketed through the Brantford installations. There is no doubt the products of the farm machinery companies in Brantford are at least as good as others'. There have been those who have been critical of certain aspects of research and development, but these are passing things and I think they can be compensated for.

But last Saturday I attended a meeting of some laid-off administrative workers from Massey-Ferguson and there was anything but a hopeful view of the future. Some of them had been called back, but they were extremely critical of the rehiring policies of the company in hiring certain of the laid-off employees hanging out to dry. The callback had nothing to do with any priority based on length of service and there is some real concern in that respect.

They even feel that the supplementary unemployment benefits payments that are supposed to be paid along with the unemployment insurance benefits are very inadequately administered and naturally they have these substantial complaints. Many of them even feel they would prefer termination so that they could get their termination pay or their severance pay and go about the business of getting a new job.

9:20 p.m.

Those people in the government of Ontario and the government of Canada who have backed the credit of Massey-Ferguson to the extent of several hundreds of millions of dollars will notice that Massey-Ferguson is on the market for additional credit of up to \$300 million. The appalling part of it, which I am sure the Treasurer is aware of, is that the main use of that \$300 million is apparently to pay severance gratuities. It really is appalling to think the additional debt is necessary simply to straighten up that matter.

I do not want to be pessimistic about the prospects for Massey-Ferguson or any other company that has been under the gun in recent economic downturns. But those of us in this Legislature who were so pleased when the government decided it would back the debts and the notes of Massey-Ferguson, along with the government of Canada, must surely feel a slight cold hand on their hearts when they see the problems Massey-Ferguson continues to experience. Its losses in the most recent business quarter were something like \$75 million—hardly the record of a company that is on the way back to recouping its worldwide position as a leading manufacturer and seller of farm machinery.

I know there have been some successes in the Brantford area. The former Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) visited and presented the flag of excellence to Dafoe and Dafoe Inc., a relatively new company in my constituency. Mr. and Mrs., or Messrs. Dafoe, manufacture many essential products for the community and they are advertised, not under

the name of Dafoe and Dafoe, but under other names in almost every ad on television. However, the stuff really sells. I see I have piqued the interest of the Treasurer and I will refer to the matter in greater detail on another occasion.

My point is simply that we have some successes in Brantford. One of the successes was to persuade the government of Canada, which government has been berated by the Conservatives opposite for not doing anything, to designate the Brantford-Paris area under the industry and labour adjustment program, which gives the same sort of stimulation to job provision and economic expansion that is needed in the area. I do not know of any kind of a significant parallel program that has been undertaken by the government of Ontario.

Hon. F. S. Miller: What about the road, Bob?

Mr. Nixon: Did he say, "What about the road?" Yes, I think he said something about the road. I am delighted the Treasurer has mentioned the road. He means controlled-access Highway 403. Once again, I do not want to spend a lot of time on the history of that road because, while it serves Brantford, it is actually built in the constituency of Brant-Oxford-Norfolk. The damned thing has been on and off again as, let us say, the fortunes of the local Tory party go up and down like whatever proverbial thing one wants to think of. Right now, its fortunes seem to be up.

I am very glad, in many respects, we have a government member here, because for years we have been told that all we need is a government member to get all the things we need in the community. So now we are going to see how the goods are delivered. The Minister of Transportation and Communications, in response to my questions last fall, indicated he was prepared to put out the tenders for the next few miles of Highway 403. He indicated in a very proper way—and I think he has it well planned in his own mind—that we are going to have the road completed through to 401 near Woodstock by about 1985 or 1986.

We already have four-lane access to Highway 403 down near Dundas, although because of certain pressures brought to bear on the Minister of Transportation and Communications the speed limit is such that a man with a lantern walks in front of any gas buggies on Highway 2 so the horses are not startled. I believe that is the justification.

Most modern cars, particularly any that I drive, cannot go as slow as the speed limit on that road. It has been turned into a very

inconvenient situation, not to say costly for some of us who use that road from time to time. I do not wish the Minister of Transportation and Communications any bad luck, but frankly I thought he too might have gone out to greener pastures or palmier holidays with the cabinet shake-up a few weeks ago. It is very difficult to shake these old dinosaurs out of their comfortable situations. They like the big offices, they like the big cars and they like to be able to move and shake.

Mr. Bradley: The jets. They like new jets.

Mr. Nixon: I guess the Minister of Transportation and Communications has his own plane, as far as that goes. I can hardly accuse him of being after the money because they say he can buy and sell the Premier two or three times a week, if he wants to. Maybe he does, I do not know. One cannot really say the minister is greedy in sticking at his job.

I do feel that here is an instance the Treasurer, by his interjection, has brought to our attention. If the minister really wants to do something to stimulate the economy of Brantford then he should certainly speed up the development of Highway 403 so there is proper access to the Hamilton area and to Highway 401 on the west. The commitment has been made and it was made as a political promise that it would be done in 1986. Frankly, I am glad that at least that commitment is there, but I would say it is not good enough.

I have one last point to make. It has to do with the provision of education services in the Brantford area and the Brant county area. Quite often in these debates the Treasurer and others say: "Will you get specific? You are critical but you don't tell us what to do." The last thing I want to refer to is to bring to the Treasurer's attention, and anyone else's who will listen, a very strange situation that has been allowed to occur in Brantford.

For many years, through no fault of anyone, I would say, Brantford has been overlooked by both the government of Canada and the government of Ontario. Whenever they are bringing out offices and new programs, they put something in London, they put something in Kitchener, they put something in Hamilton and poor old Brantford is sort of left out.

Actually, we are only 15 miles down the road from Hamilton. In many respects, one might say that is handy enough for most of their facilities, but I want to call to the members' attention information that I have already brought to the

attention of the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), who, I understand, is lying on sand in Saudi Arabia.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: She is home. She's ill.

Mr. Nixon: Oh, I am sorry, she is home and ill. She has Muhammad's complaint. No, sorry about that.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Montezuma's.

Mr. Nixon: No, not Montezuma, Montezuma does not hang out in Saudi Arabia.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): On the motion, please.

Mr. Nixon: Yes, right.

Mr. Bradley: She is Montezuma's revenge.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Nixon: The statisticians of Mohawk community college did a workup of the statistics in the Brantford-Brant county area, a community with a population of 106,000. That is no mean size, a good-sized town for a car agency or anything like that.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I used to live there.

Mr. Nixon: Yes, I know. He used to sell cars on the Paris road. Would members believe that in his previous incarnation as Minister of Health he actually came in his limousine to Paris and called a meeting of all of us local worthies and announced the closing of the Willett Hospital? That was when he was Minister of Health. Now that he is Treasurer we had an announcement just a few weeks ago that not only is the Willett Hospital not going to be closed, it is going to be doubled. Now there is consistency. It is the sort of thing that a good local member in the Brant-Oxford-Norfolk area is able to accomplish by diligent application of the facts in the right place.

Interjection.

Mr. Nixon: I cannot claim all the credit for that myself. As a matter of fact, there are people, even here, who might get up and set the record a little straighter than that because I know the former Minister of Health is very familiar with the community efforts in that connection.

One of the areas where we have not been treated fairly is in the provision of education facilities. When the present Premier, as Minister of Education, brought in the whole idea of community colleges we could not persuade him to build one in Brantford. It is by far the largest community in Ontario without a community college; there is no doubt about that. It is not

even close. There are many smaller communities which have expensive and elaborate community college facilities. The only Mohawk College facilities there are rather, let us say, inadequate facilities for the needs of the community. Of course, there is a nursing school in connection with the Brantford General Hospital, which has very high standards and of which we are very proud.

They have calculated something called the participation rate. It deals with young people in the grades 12 and 13 area moving out of there into life after grades 12 and 13. In the community colleges, the college participation rate for Brant county, including the city, for 1980 was 14.4 per cent. I wish a few members would just listen to this because they will never hear a figure like this from anywhere else in the province.

The participation rate in Brantford-Brant county is 14.4 per cent. In Hamilton-Wentworth it is 24.2 per cent and in Ontario as a whole it is 21.1 per cent. So 14 per cent of the eligible young people go to community college from Brantford, 21 per cent as an average from Ontario, and 24.2 per cent from our next community, Hamilton-Wentworth, which is also city-rural.

I would just like to change that to absolute figures. In 1980 there were 572 students at various community colleges, 315 of them new students. If the same statistics had been applied with the Hamilton rate of participation, instead of 572 there would have been 950 young people at college.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: All the rich farmers go to university.

Mr. Nixon: They are not all rich farmers.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Nixon: I will say to the Treasurer that if there was ever a serious statistic this is it. I am telling him that this is something he can do something about, both he and the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson), as soon as she is feeling better.

The university participation rate has a slightly different basis for calculation, but the calculations are here in the brief from Mohawk College, and I would be delighted to make it available to anyone who wants to pursue this. The university participation rate for Brantford-Brant county is 48.3 per cent; for Wentworth it is 75 per cent; and for Ontario it is 70.5 per cent. In brief, I would say they take the graduates

from grade 13 and compare what they have done from the Brantford-Brant county area with the history of the other communities.

I just want to repeat that 48.3 per cent is the participation rate from Brantford, 75 per cent from Wentworth, and 70 per cent as an average from Ontario. I would say that is because for the last number of years we have not participated in any adequate or fair way in the disposition of the hundreds of millions of dollars for post-secondary education, many of them coming from the government of Canada, as the Treasurer well knows. I am not here to criticize the board of governors of Mohawk College, but they might very well long before now have come up with a program to substantially expand our facilities.

Let me put it this way: I would say that many young people in the Brantford-Brant county area have always had the ideal from their older brothers, their fathers and grandfathers, that when they leave school, maybe at grade 12, the thing to do is get a job at Massey-Ferguson or at White's, where the pay rate has always been excellent, certainly way better than one would get on the farm, way better than one can get in most industries in other cities. In other words, they work under the protection of a strong and effective union, the United Automobile Workers. I am not prepared to say the work is easy because I do not know, but I know the hours are limited to 40 hours a week and for anything over that they get time and a half, double time and often triple time.

The incomes were good, and many of those young people did not miss a community college or a university campus. They thought: "Well, it's stupid to go on and get a better education. I can buy my Thunderbird, whip out to Massey and have a job that might not be the greatest job in the world as far as being interesting and entrancing is concerned, but they say there are certain ancillary benefits besides money that make it what you call reasonably interesting and fulfilling."

Unfortunately, that has dried up and many young people have almost given up the possibility of those kinds of jobs. The feeling of negativism and pessimism is almost complete and hangs like a pall of gloom over many areas in the Brantford-Brant county community. The pessimism is probably well founded when they see the record of employment in recent months and years and see the predictions of what is to come. Often those predictions are extremely pessimistic as well. If they turn out to be half as bad as the predictions, they are going to cost the Treasurer a lot of money, and he knows it.

We in the Brantford area need a new post-secondary educational facility. I can see the little marbles in the Treasurer's noggin rolling around saying: "There is no way you are going to get money spent for that up there. We have plenty of capital expenditure at the post-secondary level now." But I tell him that we in the Brant-Brantford area have been robbed over the years because of the injudicious expenditure of those dollars as far as we are concerned.

We have not shared in them and now we are suffering from the lack of post-secondary facilities. We do not need a university there. We do not even want another community college, but we could have something that breaks new ground, something the Treasurer as a politician is looking for, something, I suppose, even the other members of the cabinet would be looking for, some sort of co-operative approach with local leadership which would provide the kind of post-secondary education we need that can once again make Brantford the centre for trained, skilled workers it once was.

It makes me sick to see that the government of Ontario is still advertising in Germany, France, England and Scotland for trained people to come out here to do the jobs our young people should be trained to do. The inadequacies of our educational system have already been referred to in this House.

In closing, I would say there are three things the minister should do. On a short term, he should move to a budget. I mean that. We should not delay this further; the delays are already unconscionable. In our own community he can do much more in a positive and specific way for the farm economy, which is in a state of the most serious recession we have experienced since, I would say, 1939. This, in turn, will give the kind of economic stimulation to Brantford, Chatham and certain other communities that will get those plants working again.

I have already mentioned the need to speed up Highway 403 construction and to come to grips with the need for additional post-secondary education facilities in Brantford and Brant county.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the motion for interim supply. I welcome the pages to their first scintillating evening session. This may not seem like a vital bill. The members may have been nodding off. I noticed one or two of them trying to maintain attention.

Mr. Nixon: Does the member mean while I was speaking?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Especially while the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk-Haldimand, etc. was speaking.

Mr. Nixon: I can't believe that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This is an important event tonight because what we are doing is offering to support or not support, or at any rate speak to, the motion from the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) asking for \$5 billion between now and June 30. Since we are not now in a minority situation, it is not an insignificant matter that the members of this Legislature should have to speak to the decision of this government to request funds. It is ironic that we can go for so long a period of time, as we have been out of the House now for several months. However, unlike the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, I am glad we did not come back earlier. I was too exhausted from other endeavours to want to come back before this.

9:40 p.m.

Mr. Bradley: At least you have a seat to come back to.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Thank you very much. I am sorry that you do. We will remedy that in the next election.

Mr. Kerrio: The member can't say much about that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Not at the moment, but we will in the next little while.

The Acting Speaker : Order.

Mr. Bradley: Who is giving up his seat? The member for Scarborough West?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What a wonderful question. I just want to put to rest for now the rumours about my running for the mayoralty of Toronto at this point. But I am accepting donations from any member's who are interested in seeing me leave. I would be pleased to accept the donations.

Interjection.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Scarborough West has the floor, speaking to the motion.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am glad you reminded me, Mr. Speaker.

I speak to the motion to say that we should give the Treasurer, tonight, tomorrow, or whenever, carte blanche to carry on as he has been doing, to spend the money, as has been indicated in the past and now intimated through the throne speech, for the next number of months. My colleagues will speak, and have spoken this

My colleagues will speak, and have spoken this afternoon in the emergency debate, as to how the money could be spent; how we could be creating jobs in this province; why it is not just enough to point the finger at the federal Liberals, although that is very tempting to do and I do not blame the Tories for trying to do that. There is a certain legitimacy to attacking the federal Liberals for their high interest rate policies and their laissez-faire approach to politics.

But it is not the only answer, as my colleagues have been pointing out. Of course the provincial Liberals, to protect themselves from their federal counterparts, have been trying to point it out on a regular basis as well.

Mr. Kerrio: The member will never attack Broadbent as Premier or Prime Minister. He can bet his neck on that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I do not have to, as yet.

There is much that can be done in the automotive industry, in housing and in taking some action to help people fight the high interest policy of the federal Liberals, but I am not going to speak tonight about that. I am going to speak instead about other kinds of things this government could be spending money on to protect people and this province from the effects that are being felt right at this moment as a result of the federal policies and of this government's policies.

There are 375,000 people unemployed, but the Labour critic, the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie), said today that the figure is close to 500,000 in real numbers of those who have given up looking for employment and who are no longer able to receive benefits. There are cities and towns around this province that are feeling depressed, as the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has said.

Today a Liberal member from Windsor got up and put into words the fact that all that is left for Windsor is a hope and a prayer. Here we are in the Legislature saying a prayer for Windsor. I believe in divine intervention, but I also believe in political intervention. I believe there is action that can be taken here in Ontario without God descending to help Windsor and Windsorites. That was a wonderfully symbolic statement today, that that was what we are driven to in Ontario, to start—

Mr. Cooke: If you had three Liberal cabinet ministers, you would resort to prayer too.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I can understand, as you say, why they would be driven to that.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Many people are being affected very severely. There are the unemployed, those who are trying to get by on public assistance, the low-range family benefits, and general welfare recipients and pensioners. Look at where they are and what they have to look forward to in this province over the next few years and put that in the context of the Treasurer's statement of today. I thought it was incredible. He stood up proudly and said we were spending a smaller percentage of our gross provincial product than any of the other provinces.

While he was saying that, we have 500,000 people unemployed; we have people who are on family benefits assistance who are living 39 per cent below the poverty level, below the lowest poverty level that is talked about in this country. A mother with one child receives \$5,676 to raise her child, feed herself and clothe herself in Ontario today. This is what we are approving as we approve this interim supply; that this should continue; that those people should be maintained at this level in Ontario.

Why are they maintained at this level? It goes back to the failure to create jobs and to keep the economy buoyant. While that is the case and there is no action on that front, the least we can do is to make sure that these people do not have to live in abject poverty in this province.

Since 1975 recipients of family benefits in this province have received a 46 per cent increase. What has been the increase in the cost of living in that same time? Seventy-seven per cent.

Mr. McClellan: That is a real accomplishment.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This means that in the last five years they have lost 30 per cent of their purchasing power. This is what it means to approve this interim supply and just let it run through until the end of June without standing up and saying: "My God, this is not enough. This is inadequate."

Last fall, while family benefits recipients were being raised to 39 per cent below the poverty line, people on general welfare were told there would be no increase at all; so an average general welfare recipient in Ontario today is living on an income that is 48 per cent below the poverty line, half of what one needs to live on as a basic.

Mr. McClellan: That will really fix them. That's a real accomplishment too.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am really glad we are spending a smaller percentage than the other

provinces. I feel really wonderful about that when I know that this is what we are asking people to live on in this province.

Well, there is some good news. The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea), my responsibility in the House, announced some good news the other day: 1,600 women between the ages of 60 and 64 are now going to receive more money; they are going to move up from about \$318 to \$368 a month, depending on circumstances.

There is a wonderful line in the news release of that day from the Minister of Community and Social Services. It is a fantastic thing. He said, "When I discussed the situation of women in this age group with Health and Welfare Canada Minister Monique Bégin, I found her most sympathetic." I am surprised that he did. She announced that this should be done nine months ago—not to give her too much credit. Stanley Knowles has been talking about the fact that this age group of women has been living at the lowest level of income across the whole country and he has been doing that for the last eight years. It is nice that the honourable minister would be so nice as to say that he found the federal minister sympathetic, especially when she is putting most of the money into this new allotment of funds to these 1,600 women.

Nothing has been done about female senior citizens over 65. Every study that has been done in Canada in the last five years has shown them to be living below the poverty line. Nothing has been done in that area at all. This is a government that has been very proud of the programs it has brought in for senior citizens; this is a government that has brought in this gimmick of giving out cheques spring and fall. It is not quite spring and fall—mostly winter and summer—because they are supposed to be spring and fall but they sort of get delayed.

Mr. Foulds: Ever since George Ashe took over.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I got a call the other day, asking me if I still had any left from last fall's group and saying they would like to try to clean them up by the end of the month. I thought that was very generous of them.

9:50 p.m.

Look at housing, not from the side of helping the poorest industry and helping the construction industry in this province, but from the position of people who need housing. My riding is made up of a lot of people who are in the income range of, say, between \$17,000 a year

and \$24,000 or \$25,000 a year in family income. Those people have been able to afford homes in Scarborough West up to this last year and a bit. They have had to scrimp a lot to afford those homes, but they have been able to do it. But I am getting a steady stream of people coming to my office now in the riding saying: "In three or four months' time my mortgage is coming up for renewal and I know I can't meet those new payments because they are going to be \$300 a month more than the ones I am paying now, and we are going to have to sell. We are going to have to move and try to find rental accommodation."

Quite frankly, up to this time a lot of the housing in my riding has been amongst the cheapest housing in Metropolitan Toronto. But when people go to try to find housing in Toronto today, they discover the vacancy rate is almost nil and they cannot get rental accommodation. So what do they do? They move to Whitby and commute in. That is what is happening with a lot of the people in my riding. There are a lot of others who are in need of public housing because they cannot afford the rents available now in Toronto. If a person is on a fixed income and tries to get a place in the private market in Toronto, tries to get a one-bedroom apartment, essentially he will be paying between 80 and 90 per cent of his income for that accommodation, for average rent in Toronto now. That is right. Even in Scarborough, even in West Hill, that is the case.

One-room housing, which is disappearing in Toronto but still exists, has jumped by 80 per cent in the last year. It now takes up almost an entire welfare cheque for an individual male, a single person on welfare. Where do those people go for housing? They apply to Ontario Housing Corporation.

When I was elected in 1979, I felt relatively confident, as I went through the cases coming into my office, that if I chose the hardest cases, the ones most severely in need, and went to Ontario Housing I would be able to speed up the process by stressing the need for these people to get into Ontario Housing. Sometimes it would mean they would get in within two to three months and would just suffer hardship through that period of time.

I have a case of a woman who came to me, who had just been deserted, had one child, was pregnant with another and was living illegally with another woman, who also had two children, in a two-bedroom apartment in Ontario Housing. She was basically told—this was last

November—there would be no vacancies available to her until this spring. The average wait to get into Ontario Housing now is something like 18 months.

Mr. Philip: Much easier to get her a job in the liquor store.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: If you have any success with that, let me know. I am having trouble with that too.

The difficulty is, where do these people then go? One cannot stay in an illegal situation, as this woman was. She went to a hostel. She was lucky she got into a hostel because most of them, as members know, are full. She was told she could only stay two weeks and then she had to find something else. She went through the housing registry and could find nothing because the rooming places would not take mothers with children. They discriminate on that basis. They discriminate on the basis of people who are in receipt of public assistance. They will not take males under the age of 65. Even with three housing registry agencies working for her in Toronto, she could not find a place she could afford. Her children are now in the care of the children's aid society and she is living in a one-room place in Parkdale waiting for that opening in OHC to appear, she hopes, in April or May.

The Treasurer is pleased to tell us we are spending a lower percentage of our gross provincial product than any other province in this country. I am not proud of that one iota. It is time we did something about it. I have talked about Metro, but the situation is not just in Metropolitan Toronto. The member for Hamilton East will tell stories of public housing needs and hostel crises in Hamilton. The same situation applies in Ottawa. It is not just an isolated incident.

It is ironic that yesterday we turned to another area of the ramifications of economic malaise and lack of planning. I was fascinated that in the throne speech the other day there was no mention of mental health care. There was no mention of the fact that there might be some difficulties in the mental health care system in Ontario at this point. My God, that is just incredible. We have reports coming out of northern Ontario that there are hundreds of miles of territory where there is no psychiatrist.

Interjection.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There is no one from northern Ontario here at the moment except for the member who interjected, is there?

Mr. Wildman: I am here.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On the other side. Of course, the member for Algoma is here. Let it be noted that our northern members are all here.

Psychiatric and mental health care services in northern Ontario are grossly inadequate. We send people to Quebec for French-language services they should have as a basic right in Ontario. In Toronto we have the tragedies at Queen Street Mental Health Centre. We have a total lack of community support programs for people coming out of Queen Street. We have ex-mental health patients sleeping on the floor of All Saints Church. They are only sleeping there now because when the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) and myself happened to show they were sleeping in the stairwells at City Hall, the police started opening the doors to the parking garage so it would be too cold for anybody to stay there.

One night when I went to All Saints there were 275 people sleeping on the floor, and that was not a peak night. Ask the Ontario Public Service Employees Union workers at St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital or at Whitby Psychiatric Hospital if there are not problems in our mental health care system. Ask the members from Windsor if there is no crisis now in terms of mental health needs, a lot of it directly related to the layoff situation there.

What about children's mental health centres? The member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke) raised the case of a 14-year-old being kept in the St. Thomas psychiatric facility for adults without a proper program. Although we got a blustering reply from the Minister of Community and Social Services, the facts spoke for themselves. We will soon have released to us again this year the waiting list for children trying to get into children's mental health centres. I am willing to predict right here and now that it will be as high, if not higher, than last year. Last year there were 2,000 children on waiting lists for children's mental health centres in this province.

What does this province do? It closes down White Oaks Village and pretends it will have the same kind of facilities in London when, in fact, it has decimated that program to save money. It has certainly not put comparable facilities into place. The minister is pleased we are spending less.

10 p.m.

There are needs in this province that are not being met. These are needs that are very painful to families, that are impeding the development of young children; that are not being met

because this government has not got the decency to spend the money for those facilities. When I stand up to speak on interim supply I am speaking against that unwillingness.

I do not know whether to cry or laugh about the decision of the past Minister of Health about prosthetic devices. One, he announces a half-developed, half-baked program because he knows he is going to trade ministries soon and he wants to get the credit for prosthetic devices being covered under OHIP. Two, he brings it in to just cover prosthetic devices for children as if adult handicapped people do not need coverage for that kind of assistance as well. Then, the ultimate is he provides funding for three quarters of what is needed. I mean he funds three quarters of a crutch.

As I say, one does not know whether to laugh or to cry. We are glad something is coming, but my God, if he is going to do something he should do it in a planned fashion. He should do it in a way that meets the need. He should not offer 75 per cent of the cost of something. We do not do that with other things, why have we done it with this? That is part of this interim supply. That program is supposed to be operational before the end of June. We are supposed to be spending money in that area, but there are inadequate funds to meet a very real need for handicapped people.

I will come back to the elderly for a minute, if I might. Homes for the aged were once the pride of this province. During the 1960s there was a major building boom in homes for the aged when we decided we would build institutions for our elderly people instead of trying our best to maintain them in the community.

What we are finding is that consistent underfunding of those institutions around this province for the last seven years has come to the point where we can actually attribute deaths to that underfunding without being outrageous.

The report on Greenacres Home for the Aged in Metropolitan Toronto should be must reading for every member of this House. There are not enough blankets for the beds. It is a publicly-funded institution and there are not enough blankets. It is hardly meeting the basic quota for nursing care that is expected for people requiring normal care and these are 96 per cent extended care residents. They barely had the kind of staffing there that would meet the needs of normal ambulatory care people in a home for the aged.

We all thought this was a specialized institution which people like to shy away from because

it is a very painful place to go and visit. I do not know if the members have ever been there, but it is an institution where the vast majority of people are confused, are suffering from various forms of dementia and senility and it is not a pleasant place to be around. It is a very hard place to work in as well.

Maybe it is the kind of place—if it is put out of sight, out of mind—that would deteriorate like that. But there has now been a new study of the other homes in Metropolitan Toronto. We find the understaffing problems are enormous and that millions of dollars needs to be spent right now to meet the needs of those institutions.

Some examples: In Castleview-Wychwood Towers, there are two nursing attendants for every 40 patients. In Cummer House there are two nursing attendants for every 130 patients. Those nursing attendants do not have the time to hand out the proper dosages to patients for their nightly sleeping pill, let alone to do any proper work with those people. What are we setting up in this province, a place where people can go to rot and die?

Those institutions were begun as places that would be about 50 per cent ambulatory care and 50 per cent extended care when they started in the 1960s. The average age was around 67. The average age today is 83, 82.5—something like that. The number of people who need extended care in those facilities has jumped enormously. Greenacres Home for the Aged is a special case with 96 per cent, but Castleview is 62 per cent and Kipling Acres is 77 per cent. This has happened everywhere around the province. The average is around 70 to 75 per cent of the people in those institutions who now need extended care. We have not changed the staffing, we have not changed the physical surroundings, we have not changed the kind of equipment that is in those institutions to meet those needs.

If one reads this report on the Metro home one learns that they do not have enough staff on at night to handle a fire emergency, even after the tragedies we have had in this province. The Treasurer can take no solace in saying we are spending a smaller percentage of money than other provinces are. How the hell can he? We are threatening those people's lives, people who built this province.

I will not deal with home support services, which are now supposedly coming into place. This replaces the need for more homes for the aged that is facing this province. Suffice it to say that by announcing it again in the throne speech

after it has already been announced three to five times—and we have not seen one dollar for it yet—I am really not worried about it being covered by interim supply at all. It is just a farce. By 1986 we will have it in six communities. That is great. I am really pleased that we are meeting the needs of our elderly people in this province.

The fact is that social service agencies around this province, especially those that deal with the elderly, have been kept at a \$15,000-a-year grant by this province since the mid-1970s, and they are now going bankrupt. The United Way agencies can no longer take that increasing load upon themselves just because the province will not pick up its share any more. The Treasurer may be pleased that we have done this and held the line, held down those darned voluntary social service agencies that are out there spending the public money. He may be pleased that we are showing good fiscal restraint, but I am not.

What about day care? One might not look at day care, as I do, as the obvious extension of our education system for the 1980s and 1990s, as we developed the education system 50 or 60 years ago. One might not look at it that way and see early childhood education as a valuable thing to add to our society. But even then one must look at it as an economic necessity for families that have two people working, because federal programs and interest rates require two jobs to carry the kind of costs we have today because of inflation. It is just for that reason we need more money in day care than we are getting in this interim supply.

I had a call yesterday from a person in my riding who had a chance to get a job that would have been a \$5,000-a-year increase and would have brought her up to \$24,000 a year—the sole income in that family. The only difficulty was that her shift is from 12 o'clock at night until eight in the morning and she needed to find some place that took 24-hour day care. We looked high and low to find a place where she could get 24-hour day care, even paying for it. We could not find a place that had a waiting list of less than seven months.

10:10 p.m.

There are certain ironies in the spinoff of the government's lack of funding of jobs and the deterioration of our economy. Sitting back and saying, "These darn feds are doing it to us," means the price comes in terms of child abuse. The cost shows itself in child abuse. This province has not only underfunded children's aid societies; in my view they have even turned

their backs on children's aid societies where workers are now being attacked and judged through the legal system rather than under the Child Welfare Act. They have left those people out there saying, "We will wait and see what the courts decide," but they have actually taken money out of child abuse projects in this province.

I think there is one in Hamilton that has just gone down the drain plus the one last fall here in Toronto. The splendid contrast of that is they are paying this guy, Judge H. Ward Allen, \$72,000 a year to write a report on child abuse on the death of a child, Kim Anne Popen, who died in 1976. He started his investigation in 1978. We have not been able to ask any questions about it because it has been sub judice throughout. We are always told that by the various ministers.

Mr. Nixon: And the CAS worker who lost his job and had to leave his home and all the rest of it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Totally discredited; this judge has been working on this report writing it full time. He was taken off the bench last April. We have spent more than \$250,000 on this guy already. The other day he had the nerve to say he was past page 1,000 at this point. He did not know quite when it was going to end. When he got going he wrote more and more.

I do not know if he is aware of the fact there have been changes in child abuse regulations since 1978, but there have been. I do not know if he understands there are people in children's aid societies who are going through major crises at the moment because their jobs are not only on the line but they may go to jail while he is sitting there writing the great 16-volume report—the great 16-volume irrelevant report I am sure by the time it comes out. We are funding that at the same time as we withdraw money from active child abuse projects.

I am pleased the Treasurer feels it is a good thing we are spending less than other provinces, but I do not think it is a good thing. I think it shows a total lack of imagination on the part of the government. It shows a total lack of commitment and compassion. I wanted to use tonight to harass the government a bit about that, to say that I am going to remind them about this again and again.

The government cannot just say, "Times are tough and the feds are not doing what they are supposed to do," because it has a responsibility to the people of the province, especially to the people who need the most protection—the kind

of people I have been talking about. The government is not doing it. We are going to remind the government about that and tell the people about that so that in a few years it will not have to be burdened with a job that is obviously too much for it. We would be glad to take it over and show a bit of imagination on the other side.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I have been here all evening listening to these interesting speeches. The most interesting speech was given by my honourable colleague, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon). Certainly his penetrating thoughts and remarks have shown up the Conservative government for what it is.

I would like to say, after having had a long recess of almost three months and after not having seen many of my colleagues here in the House, it certainly is nice to be back. Many of my friends and colleagues in the House have asked me why I have shaved off my moustache. I must say there has been more discussion on and more interest in the reasons why I shaved off my moustache than in the government's throne speech.

An hon. member: Tell them you will not shave until they do something about the economy.

Mr. Mancini: That is right. I will not grow my moustache back until the government does something about the economy and puts the 400,000 unemployed back to work.

This debate this evening is on the motion for supply. I personally object to giving this government more money to spend. In my view, this government is not interested in careful expenditure. It has proven that to us time and time again. It has not sent any signals at all to the bureaucrats and to the managers of the government departments that they must be conscientious.

You say to me, Mr. Speaker: "How is that so? What signal have they not sent, or what signals have they sent, to these bureaucrats that they can spend at will?" When last April this government brought in the ad valorem tax that just keeps reaping tax dollars without any accountability to the people and to this Legislature, it shows the bureaucrats the pit is bottomless and they can spend the money as they will with absolutely no repercussions.

As I am speaking, I am looking at the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman). From what I can understand from press reports he is gathering up public support to create a storm over the federal government's metric commission. I would advise

the member for Leeds to spend his time working on provincial matters, to spend his time encouraging the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) to get Ontario's economy moving again. I would encourage the member for Leeds to tell the Treasurer to send the jet plane back and save the people of Ontario millions of dollars. I would encourage the member for Leeds to tell the Treasurer not to spend \$650 million and billions of dollars of interest for Suncor. If he wants to be a member of the Legislature, those are a couple of things he could be busying himself with.

Frankly I object to giving this government more money to spend. But there are a lot of other things I object to about what this government has done in the past and what it is doing right now.

I am glad the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes) is here, because this concerns him also. We have a very sophisticated and successful greenhouse floral industry in this province. In my riding alone we have at least 400 people working in that industry. That industry has a farm-gate value of \$100 million and exports \$10 million. All this information is well known to the member for Lincoln who, as did many other candidates in the last general election, told his voters to vote for him and they would have a member on the government side who would speak for them and everything would unfold as it should. There would be prosperity in every Tory riding. That member represents a significant portion of the greenhouse floral industry.

The Ontario Conservative government introduced its Ontario farm assistance program, wanting to help farmers who are in dire straits. In my view the greenhouse floral industry is part of the agricultural community and is important to this province. There are people working in that industry. I have written a letter to the Premier (Mr. Davis) objecting that the greenhouse floral industry is excluded from assistance in that program—a shameful thing to do indeed. The Premier wrote back to me, saying: "Mr. Mancini, this was not an oversight by our government. It was a deliberate policy decision." Shame.

10:20 p.m.

Where was the member for Lincoln when that deliberate policy decision was made? The Premier told me in his letter he has limited funds. Where was the member for Lincoln when they were buying jet planes and Suncor? Where was his voice then?

We on this side of the House believe the farm community should be treated as equals. If there is a program to be set up to assist the farm community it is highly unfair to exclude a particular segment of that industry. I say to the member for Lincoln and all of his Tory caucus members, if these people in the greenhouse floral industry go bankrupt, if jobs are lost, it is because of a policy decision that his people made. They will have to live with the consequences; they will have to explain that to the people of Ontario.

Mr. Wrye: And the people of Lincoln. Now we know what the Premier thinks of them.

Mr. Mancini: This government, from what we heard in the throne speech, really does not know what to do. They ran their last campaign on jingles and slogans. There was really no thought-out policy as to what should be done to get Ontario moving again. That is why they are lost today. I suspect that in the next two or three months we shall be hearing some new jingles and some new slogans, and they will hope, in that fashion, to try to keep public support from turning against them in a very dramatic fashion.

But I suspect they are already too late. I suspect that, no matter what jingles and other types of advertising they attempt to put on the airwaves in the next two or three months, it is already too late to stop the turning of public opinion against this government. I want to give them a couple of suggestions for getting Ontario moving again.

The government already knows the food processing industry in this province could provide a bonanza of jobs. But I suspect they have not done their homework. They are really not familiar with, or aware of, the present conditions of the food processing industry. They do now know how they should spend money to expand this industry and attract new jobs and new exports. Just in my part of the province alone there have been successful food processors, small businessmen, who over the past several years have been able to expand their businesses, create new jobs and make our agricultural land more productive, by being able to supply the farmers with contracts.

I am curious and want to know why, with all the bureaucrats they have at their disposal and having been in government for so long, it is so difficult for them to say: "We are going to be moving quickly in the food processing field. We know who is in the business now and we know that our farmers can produce more. We know there are farmers on waiting lists to get con-

tracts and we are going to use government funds to involve ourselves in this particular segment of the industry. We are going to get Ontario moving again."

Did we hear anything like that in the throne speech? No, we heard meaningless words, fed bashing, that it is everybody else's fault but ours. Frankly, one gets a little tired. One always hopes the government will do a good job because the citizens each member represents are very important to that member. All of us are concerned that the future of our children and the future of the constituents we represent are being looked after.

I have completely lost confidence in this government. It has come to the point where its only concern is political survival. It is a sad thing to say but that is the point the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party has reached. Political survival is its only concern. That is why they put in place jingles instead of policies.

We will be hearing from the Treasurer in the next few weeks. He will have to face the Legislature and the people of Ontario. He will have to table his budget and his expenditures. We will know then what plans he has and in what direction he wishes to take this province. We will know then for certain whether or not the Conservative Party and the Conservative government of this province have fallen apart altogether or whether they think there is something they can do. That will be the opportunity for the people of Ontario to be able to judge.

I want to say to the Treasurer that we in this province cannot afford any further tax increases. He socked it to us last year. The *Toronto Star* stated after his budget of last April that his tax increases were at least \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion a year. The taxpayers of Ontario, the unemployed workers, the people making minimum wages cannot afford further tax increases. This government campaigned on a mandate to avoid tax increases. It broke that promise in last year's budget. Surely the Treasurer must have been made aware by the many community groups, the businessmen and associations he has met with over the past several months that the working people and the business community of this province cannot at this time afford tax increases.

My colleague, the member for Windsor-Sandwich, has mentioned interest rates.

Mr. Wrye: Windsor-Riverside.

Mr. Mancini: I'm sorry—the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke). The member for Windsor-Sandwich is quite astute.

The member for Windsor-Riverside said something about interest rates. What he failed to remind the House about is that around 1980, a year or so before the provincial election, when the Liberal Party introduced an interest-rate relief program, his party voted with the Tories. As a result the farmers, the small businessmen and the home owners did not get an interest-rate relief program. He forgets that, does he not?

He forgot to tell the people of Windsor-Riverside about Chrysler. The member for Windsor-Riverside said he wanted the government to invest in business but when the federal government was helping—

Mr. Speaker: I would direct the honourable member's attention to the clock.

On motion by Mr. Mancini, the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would like to outline the business of the House for tomorrow

and for next week. Tomorrow morning we will continue the debate on this motion for interim supply.

On Monday, March 15, assuming that this motion may be completed, we will go on to consideration of the throne speech with the mover and seconder making their contributions to the debate. That of course will continue until 6 p.m.

Next Tuesday the address in reply to the throne speech will be by the Leader of the Opposition. Next Tuesday evening the House will consider second reading of Bill 10, an Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act.

On Thursday, addresses in reply to the throne speech will continue with the contribution by the deputy leader of the New Democratic Party. For the balance of Thursday afternoon and evening and for Friday, we will continue debate on the throne speech. Then, of course, the House will adjourn on Friday until Monday, March 29.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

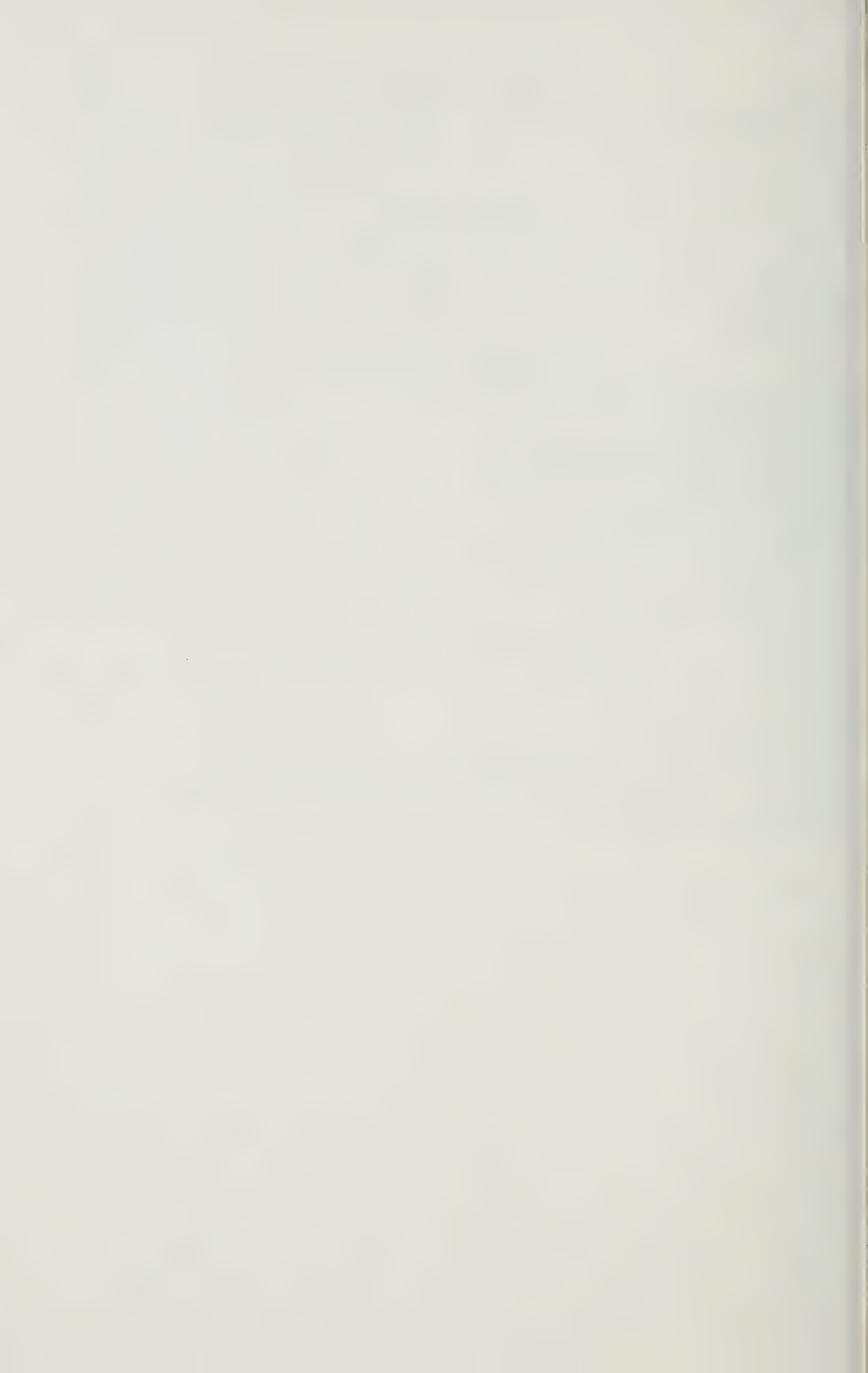
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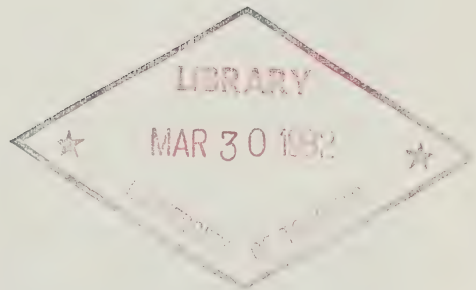


Ontario LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 4

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Friday, March 12, 1982

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Friday, March 12, 1982

The House met at 10:04 a.m.

Prayers.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: Before commencing with the routine proceedings, I would like to draw the honourable members' attention to a group of distinguished visitors in the Speaker's gallery. They are a group of senior personnel from many countries on a year's sabbatical at the Centre for International Affairs at Harvard University and are currently travelling throughout Ontario and Canada as guests of the government.

I ask you to join with me in extending a warm welcome to all of them.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE RATES

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations I recently received the report on automobile insurance rating criteria prepared by the all-industry special committee of the Insurance Bureau of Canada. As many honourable members are no doubt aware, the report was initiated in 1979 at the request of the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea), who was then Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Specifically, the government was concerned that in Ontario certain aspects of the current system of rating drivers in groups for insurance purposes were unfairly discriminatory. We felt it was no longer acceptable to group drivers together simply on the basis of their age, sex and marital status. It is also our view that in the light of our revised Ontario Human Rights Code and the new Canadian charter of rights, other and less discriminatory methods of classifying drivers have to be explored, developed and eventually put in place.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada responded to our request by producing a thorough and thoughtful document that explores in some detail the problems and views of the insurance industry which must be considered if changes are to be made. Therefore, it was with great interest that I read the findings and conclusions offered by the Insurance Bureau of Canada in their report.

The position taken by the insurance industry and enunciated clearly in this document can be characterized as one of uncertainty and resistance to change. A number of legitimate concerns are voiced regarding matters of a technical nature. Let me say here today that I appreciate the reasons for their reluctance. Nevertheless, I must emphasize that the time for change has come. Changes must be made and with a minimum of disruption to the industry and its clients.

My intention is not to engage in confrontation tactics or to impose unnecessary regulations upon a private, profit-making industry. What I am committed to is a system of rating drivers that more accurately reflects the personal driving record of each individual. For me, it boils down to a simple question of fairness.

For example, is it right that a young driver under 25 should be charged premiums based strictly on age, sex and marital status without sufficient regard for the individual's driving habits? Would it not be a far better system to have each driver rated according to driving ability and past experience? The fact that the Ontario insurance industry has already dropped age, sex and marital status criteria for drivers over 25 strongly indicates that this is the direction in which we should be going.

One of the complaints heard most often in connection with this matter of changing insurance rating criteria is that it will automatically lead to an increase in premiums paid by all drivers, including those over 25. This does not necessarily follow. We believe a new system can be devised under which no older driver with a good record will be required to pay more, and neither will a younger driver with a clean record be required to pay more.

Mr. Nixon: What about a middle-aged driver?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: We are not talking about you today; it's all right.

Such a system would seek to redistribute costs according to individual competence and experience. In other words, accident-free operators would be rewarded with lower premiums; bad ones would be required to pay more.

What we are suggesting is a list of criteria that might include the following:

1. The principal operator's use of the vehicle, whether it is business or recreational;
2. A more detailed accounting of the operator's anticipated routine weekly mileage and total annual mileage;
3. The operator's traffic offence conviction record;
4. A greater emphasis on the principal operator's driving experience;
5. A closer look at the number of "at-fault" claims during a five-year period;
6. The use of a vehicle by occasional drivers; and
7. The type of vehicle being insured, whether it is large or small, its engine size and body weight.

Of course, before any changes could be implemented the necessary data base would have to be made available. Therefore, under section 80 of the Insurance Act, I have ordered the provincial superintendent of insurance to arrange for the establishment of a statistical plan that will gather the figures needed for possible alternatives. Work on a new statistical model is now under way.

10:10 a.m.

I would like to point out that since the report was commissioned two years ago, the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, in co-operation with the insurance industry, has introduced two significant improvements to current rating methods. I am referring, of course, to the elimination of the surcharge applied to unmarried male drivers between the ages of 25 and 29 and of the fee hike levied against senior citizens who showed no impairment of their driving skills. Both groups can now expect and receive fair and reasonable treatment from insurance companies in Ontario; our goals will have been met when this is true for all Ontarians.

The changes will not be made overnight. I expect two to three years may pass before a new system will be fully operational. In the meantime, we have taken the first crucial step. There will be people who will balk at the prospect of change—there always are. Nevertheless, I remain convinced that when this overhaul has been completed, residents of Ontario will enjoy one of the most progressive and equitable automobile insurance systems anywhere in the world.

PARK PLANNING

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to

present the report of the Task Force on Parks System Planning to the Legislature this morning. I am also tabling draft forest management agreements for the Black River forest and the Nipigon forest; several approved and draft provincial park master plans; background documents for the West Patricia land-use plan; background documents for 10 district land-use plans; and a summary of public responses for the southern Ontario co-ordinated program strategy.

The completion of these studies and plans represents a significant step forward in Ontario's strategic land-use planning process.

We are now entering the final phase of Ontario's major land-use planning program. The completion of the studies and plans that I am tabling today represents a milestone in the planning program. All the components are now consolidated and are moving in phase with each other. These components include parks planning as well as forest, minerals, wildlife, fish and water management planning. This consolidation ensures that all components will get balanced consideration as land-use decisions are reached in accordance with our overall philosophy of multiple-use resource management.

As the honourable members are aware, our basic commitment is to derive the greatest possible benefits for all Ontarians from our natural resources.

The tabling of the report of the Task Force on Parks System Planning marks a significant step forward for our provincial parks. Parks planning is now on stream with Ontario strategic land-use planning. This integration guarantees that park options will receive full consideration in the strategic land-use planning process, and it ensures that parks system planning will be balanced with other considerations such as forest management.

The report identifies some 240 proposed candidate parks, which is a major accomplishment. The identification of these areas will eventually mean significant expansion of our parks system. It will help us fulfil our parks policy goal of providing a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities and protecting provincially significant natural, cultural and historical environments.

The Task Force on Parks System Planning began its work last spring, after I requested that parks system planning be given priority over master planning for individual parks. This was

necessary to get planning for the parks system as a whole in phase with strategic land-use planning.

Master planning for individual parks will come back on stream this fall, once the proposals identified by the task force have been integrated into strategic land-use planning at the district level. Master plans that have not yet been approved will be made available for public review at upcoming open houses. We will then proceed with implementation of those master plans that have been approved, and we will continue working on the others until master planning is completed for all parks.

Public consultation is a vital element of my ministry's planning process. The task force report will be widely available so that individuals and groups can review it and then contribute their views at district open houses.

The task force report has suggested that we should consider some modifications to the guidelines in my ministry's Provincial Parks Planning and Management Manual. Therefore, I am ensuring that it will also be available at the district open houses. Once we have completed this stage, it is my intention to bring a significant number of the proposed parks under regulation in 1983.

Many of the proposed areas would make outstanding contributions to our parks system. For example, Woodland Caribou, Whitewater Lake and Lady Evelyn/Smoothwater are wilderness candidates. Natural environment candidates include Teggau-Winnange and Lake of the Woods. There are several waterway candidates in northern and southern Ontario. Some 80 nature reserves are among the proposed areas, as well as various historical and recreational areas.

The majority of the proposed park candidates are in areas where there is likely to be minimal pressure from resource development activities such as forestry or mining. Some of the proposed candidate parks will require more urgent attention than others to preserve park values. A few contain resources that are needed to fulfil existing resource production commitments. If we were to order immediate exemption of those areas from resource development, the economies of local communities would suffer. The terms under which the ministry will continue to honour existing commitments in candidate parks have been outlined in the Policy and Implementation Guidelines for Interim Uses in Candidate Parks.

The interim-uses policy will be applied to the

management of candidate parks once they have been accepted in approved district land-use plans and until they are established as parks under the Provincial Parks Act or the Wilderness Areas Act. Interim-use guidelines will be available for review in all ministry offices.

Essentially, it is my intention to permit, under strict controls, uses which will have no significant long-term impact on park values. Uses which conflict with park values will be prohibited.

As I mentioned a moment ago, parks system planning now joins other components of our comprehensive, strategic land-use planning program.

Other milestones are either occurring or due to be reached this year. Two new forest management agreements are currently in the final stages of negotiation for the Black River forest and the Nipigon forest and have already undergone extensive public review. Copies of the draft forest management agreements will be available for further public review and comment at upcoming district open houses. I expect these forest management agreements to be signed by the end of March.

Also, we are just about to complete the third and final phase of our overall land-use planning program. Strategic land-use plans for north-eastern and northwestern Ontario and the co-ordinated program strategy for southern Ontario will be published this spring.

Furthermore, phase 1 of district land-use planning is well under way. Many open house meetings have been held to give everyone an opportunity to offer information and comment and more are scheduled. Open houses are upcoming in various centres in northwestern Ontario later this month at which the two draft forest management agreements will be a major item on the agenda. The final round of district open houses will be held throughout Ontario in midsummer, and I anticipate completion of final district land-use plans by the end of this year.

ORAL QUESTIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. I am sure the Treasurer is aware of the unemployment figures released this morning which show that unemployment is up 8,000 this month over last month, seasonally adjusted, and that there are some 56,000 more unemployed than there were a year ago at this

time. Is the Treasurer prepared to consider his intransigence of yesterday and do something about it in the very near future?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, actual unemployment is down 2,000 this month; seasonally adjusted unemployment is up. I do not know whether it is because of yesterday's function, but in the city of Windsor the unemployment rate dropped from about 10.1 per cent to 7.6 per cent.

Mr. Peterson: Following his own admonition that liars figure and figures lie, I can understand his wanting to use his figures to serve his own purpose. Is the Treasurer aware that there are 7,000 fewer people working in this province today than there were a year ago? The job force is actually diminishing. He said in the throne speech that he was going to create jobs. When is he going to create them?

Hon. F. S. Miller: As the honourable member knows, we have done better than any other jurisdiction around us in terms of job creation. We know we are going through a trough right now, but we will have a positive growth in job creation during 1982. It is my opinion that we are at the very bottom at the moment and that, from here on, the total growth will be quite commendable throughout the year.

10:20 a.m.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I have never seen a Treasurer live in such a world of illusion. How can he make the statement that Windsor has 7.6 per cent unemployment, when it is a fact that 20,000 people are registered with Canada Manpower? Does he not understand how Statistics Canada collects the statistics and warns that they are not accurate for community figures? He should not use the 7.6 per cent figure.

That is borne out by the province-wide statistic that Statscan has produced which includes hidden employment. Is the minister aware that the real unemployment in this province is 544,000 people? Since unemployment is now well over half a million in this province, is it not time for the Treasurer to show a little leadership and get serious about job creation?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, it is intriguing to watch the opposition use Statscan figures when it suits them and ignore them when it does not.

Mr. Peterson: If the Treasurer would like to use unadjusted figures, unemployment has increased by 65,000 in one year rather than 56,000, so it is much worse using his figures than

he would have us believe. In the past month, we have lost 9,000 jobs in the agricultural sector, 6,000 in the manufacturing sector, 3,000 in the construction sector and 6,000 in the transportation sector—all vital sectors—in Ontario. The Treasurer says he is going to have more employment this year. When and how is he going to do it?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I was listening last evening to the always-eloquent comments of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) when he was talking at great length about his riding during the interim supply debate. He was discussing the question of employment in that area, and it was very interesting.

It is my understanding, for example, that there is one very specific factor. The opposition members read off all the troubles, but they never read back any of the gains. They count them every time they go down as if those on temporary layoff never come back to work. It is my understanding that there are currently 5,200 people at work in the Massey-Ferguson plant in the area near the member's riding, but it was only 2,000 a while back.

The point I am trying to make is that there have been major problems in the world—

Mr. Nixon: The federal government moved in with the industry and labour adjustment program and that's the only good thing that has happened to us.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Now the member is quite willing to agree with the federal government. That is the kind of thing I need out in public more often. As the Hamilton member said, a Liberal is a Liberal is a Liberal. We do lay the blame right on the Liberals in Ottawa and in fact it is their fault.

U OF T EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Treasurer but, rather than listen to another grade B Johnny Carson routine, I think I will put a question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, who is in charge of the Discriminatory Business Practices Act in Ontario.

The minister is aware that the University of Toronto has just signed a five-year contract with the Saudi Arabian government to bring hundreds of Saudi students to the engineering faculty at the University of Toronto. Under the agreement, the U of T engineering staff will also teach and advise in Saudi Arabia.

The minister knows it is Saudi Arabia's

avowed policy to restrict Jews from working in that country. The agreement reportedly lacks an antidiscrimination clause, so it opens the U of T to complicity in discrimination against Jews and possibly against women. I want to know how the minister feels about this prospect of Ontario supporting Saudi Arabia's discriminatory practices against Jewish professors here in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, let us get a couple of things on the record. This province is in the forefront in general in this country in terms of human rights and human rights legislation. He should not play pussy-in-the-well about that. We should also understand that this province is in the forefront in this country with respect to antidiscrimination legislation for countries outside this nation.

I have not received any official documentation or any official notice about the matters that took place in the Middle East recently. When I do, I will be pleased to comment on them. In the meantime, let us not try to pretend that there has never been any evidence of concern by this government about human rights issues.

Mr. Peterson: First of all, no one said that. I have read the minister's pious speeches on this subject before, as well as those of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) and the Premier (Mr. Davis), but we have a specific case in front of us for which the minister is responsible. I want to know what formal assurances he has and what ministrations he is prepared to make to ensure there is no discrimination under that contract. That is the question.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Let me just reaffirm that there is no doubt about this government's position with respect to human rights issues. That member from that party, which is also associated with another party in Ottawa we are not supposed to talk about, knows that. He knows I will review whatever documentation is presented to me.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Settle down. This is not a campaign. We don't want to hear your yacking.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Everyone will have an opportunity to ask questions. The minister will proceed, please.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: The member knows I have said I will review the documentation when it is provided to me.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, is the minister saying that even though this matter became public

three days ago he has not yet contacted the University of Toronto to find out why it is that, unlike American universities, they do not have in the contract a nondiscrimination clause?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Certainly our staff are getting in touch with the parties, Mr. Speaker, and the member would know that.

Mr. Peterson: I would like a commitment from this minister, who is responsible for this act, that he will direct his law officers or the law officers of the crown to investigate this agreement and that he will report back immediately to the House on the state of that clause, which potentially discriminates against our people here in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I have already indicated I will be reviewing the issue.

AID TO AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. The Treasurer will recall that the throne speech admits "the greatest single impediment to the revitalization of the economy of this province is the current state of the North American automotive industry."

That being the case, instead of the Treasurer talking inconsequential nonsense about increased advertising and blaming the federal government, why does he not take some immediate steps to create a crown corporation? He could establish a joint venture with Chrysler and Massey-Ferguson to produce the Perkins diesel engine in Chrysler's empty engine plant in Windsor, thereby creating in Windsor, and in Ontario, 4,000 jobs and stimulating \$84 million in wages.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I am keenly aware of the discussions going on. I probably would differ with the honourable member in terms of one basic part and that is whether crown corporations are the best way to do anything; that would always be his solution.

We have not done trite things. We have accompanied the United Auto Workers, the parts manufacturers and the vehicle manufacturers to Ottawa and demanded that the government in Ottawa use its power to do what every other trading nation in the world has done, almost without exception; that is, protect our own workers.

If Australia can have a tariff of, I think, 58 per cent on imported Japanese cars if they do not have sufficient Australian content; if France can limit them to three per cent; if Italy can limit them to 2,000 total cars a year; if Britain can

limit them to 11 per cent, then I say we have the right to demand of the federal government that they protect Canadian jobs in Canada by demanding Canadian content.

Mr. Foulds: Those sentiments are all very fine, but what initiative is the Ontario government going to take? In particular, as they have the precedent through Suncor of setting up a sidcar company, why do they not do that in the auto industry? Why not take the initiative where for \$200 million—a lot less than the \$650 million that is out there for Suncor—they could create 4,000 jobs here in Ontario and create a new industry with the diesel engine, which has an increasing potential in Canada and the North American market?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I did not say we were not.
10:30 a.m.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, do I take it from the Treasurer's remarks that he views the problem with the Ontario economy as being unjust competition from abroad? Is it now the position of Ontario that to protect jobs in Ontario we will revert to the protectionist barriers we used to have in Canada? Is that his solution for all the economic ills of Ontario—to put up trade barriers?

Hon. F. S. Miller: It makes me wonder then if the Liberal-Labour member for Rainy River is against protecting jobs in Canada.

Mr. T. P. Reid: I just want to know what the philosophy is.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Is the member against protecting jobs in Canada? I am for protecting jobs in Canada—unashamedly so. But I want to tell the member something. The things we—

Mr. T. P. Reid: The Treasurer does not have a policy. That is his problem. If he cannot blame Ottawa, he will blame the Japanese. He is going to run out of countries.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member for Rainy River please contain himself? He has asked a question. Will he please give the Treasurer a chance to respond?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, what I am for is fair trade; and fair trade involves countries able to do so, buying Canadian products in a finished state that are world competitive, and allowing them entry. That is what I am for. I am not for being so naive as to have their products come in when ours are cut off. We should fight with the same set of rules.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask

the minister, since he was so interested in investing \$650 million in Alberta, which created no jobs in Ontario—

Mr. Wrye: The member supported that.

Mr. Cooke: No, I did not.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Oh, yes, the member did. He wanted them to buy another quarter.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Windsor-Riverside has the floor. Proceed, please.

Mr. Cooke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know where the Liberals stand on fair trade. We just heard that from the member for Rainy River.

The minister will realize many jobs in the auto industry have been lost. Here is an example of an opportunity for this government to invest directly in a separate corporation that would eliminate, or reduce, the deficit we now have with the United States in the North American automobile industry. It would create enough jobs to eliminate 25 per cent of the unemployment in Windsor. Is the minister prepared to show leadership and get those jobs on stream, instead of waiting in order to place more blame on the federal government?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, if this government has done anything over its 38 years it has been to show the kind of leadership the people of the province understand, accept, support and return. We are going to keep on doing that.

I understand the honourable member has a resolution on the books—ballot item 2—which probably will be debated at length when its time comes up. We are fighting for the very jobs he talked about. I said that we were there, accompanying the proponents of some degree of protection. We are going to see that it happens. Look at Volkswagen—

Mr. Cooke: He can go to all the meetings he wants. Why does the minister not put his money where his mouth is?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I cannot talk when you talk.

Mr. Speaker: Will the member for Windsor-Riverside please be quiet and allow the Treasurer to respond to his question?

Hon. F. S. Miller: In the case of the recent Volkswagen deal we managed to get a very high Canadian-content rule in force. We were very pleased we were able to drag the feds, kicking

and screaming, into it. We had to drag them so hard we almost lost the deal. That is now a fact of history.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Ignore the interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: What we are for and will continue to be for is for jobs and job security for people who are out of work.

SALMONELLA VICTIM

Mr. Foulds: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to the Minister of Health. Can the minister confirm the very simple fact that salmonella was detected and confirmed in the nursery at the Peterborough Civic Hospital on December 29? If so, has he yet determined why the Burrows babies, who were discharged on that day, were discharged without anyone suggesting that they be tested before they be discharged?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I can only report much of what I reported yesterday, except I can add one piece of information which relates directly to the question the member asked yesterday. He quite understood then we would not happen to have that information at hand here in the House.

The question yesterday specifically related to why it took a week to notify those patients who might have been in contact with the first outbreak. That was a pretty important and serious allegation—one which disturbed me quite a bit. I have now ascertained that the outbreak was, in fact, identified on December 29. On that date each and every physician who had a patient in contact with the patient who had been identified as having salmonella was notified. So the contact was made that very same day.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain why, if that is the case, none of the families of the 18 children, including the Burrows, was notified? The families were left out there on their own, the Burrows family in particular, until January 6 when they got their baby into the hospital. Why was there such a complete breakdown of the public health protection function?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me make this absolutely clear. The medical officer of health does not work for the Minister of Health. The way the system works is that the MOH is responsible for protection against outbreak of disease in a municipality. The MOH moved in immediately upon identification of that prob-

lem on December 29 and appropriate steps were taken. I am sure the member would agree the appropriate step in this case and similar cases is to notify immediately the doctors whose patients were in contact with the carrier. That was done. There was no failure to communicate; there was no breakdown of that system to that point. I was relieved to learn today each and every doctor was contacted that day.

If the member alleges the physicians involved failed to contact their patients after they had been notified by the MOH in Peterborough, that is indeed a very serious allegation and it is one which troubles me a great deal. If it turns out to be accurate, certain actions will have to be taken because it does involve things that go far beyond the responsibility of the Minister or Ministry of Health. It involves the professional activities of the physicians involved and that is where the allegation properly belongs. But the allegation certainly does not at this stage properly belong at this ministry and certainly does not belong with the medical officer of health.

The MOH notified the physicians. If the member says the families were not notified, the physicians failed to notify them. I am not saying they failed to notify them. All I can say is that the doctors were notified the same day. If the member's allegation is correct that the families were not, then the breakdown in the link was between the doctors and the families.

I do not want anyone to leave this assembly this morning thinking I am accusing the doctors of failing to make that connection, because I am not competent to report on that. All I am saying is if the member's allegation that the families were not notified is accurate, that is not the fault of the medical officer of health.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the minister has made it clear he does not pay the medical officer of health and twice on two days has indicated his confidence in him. He has the responsibility and considerable powers, however, with reference to the hospital. He indicated yesterday he was not contemplating any trusteeship. Is he satisfied with the administration, however, and can he inform the House if he is, as well as with the medical practices that are carried on in the hospital?

10:40 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: To date I am. The epidemiologist sent by our ministry to aid the medical officer of health, Dr. Carlson, as indicated yesterday, will make a report today. If

there is anything at all contained in that report and her information with regard to the processes followed with regard to the allegations made by the acting leader of the New Democratic Party, I can assure the House I will seriously consider the option of having an inspector sent in there in order to satisfy all members of the public as to the procedures and the processes being carried on there.

I have already made some contacts with regard to the people I might ask to serve as inspectors, if it is deemed that is necessary. If I deduce that is necessary I will not hesitate to implement that process as soon as later today or over the weekend.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I guess it is fair to say the minister is not aware, but would he not be interested to determine for himself by phoning the Burrows family, as we did, that they have said to us on three occasions, and they would say it to him, that nobody advised the Burrows family that their daughter, Stephanie, had been exposed to salmonella until after she had been returned to the hospital on January 6?

Would the minister stop trying to pass the buck here and there and everywhere and address himself to the questions that have now been raised on three occasions here? Why did the hospital not inform the Burrows family and the other families that their babies had been exposed to salmonella in the nursery of that hospital? And why did the medical officer of health not undertake to notify the families of the babies who had been exposed to salmonella that their babies were at risk?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me correct something. I notice the member indicated that the medical officer of health notified the physicians or said that is what I said. If I indicated the MOH notified the physicians—and I do not think I did—but if I did, I am sorry, because it was the hospital. After being notified by the MOH, the hospital is responsible for notifying the physicians, and the hospital notified the physicians that same day.

If it is the position of the member for Bellwoods that the hospital should notify the parents, as opposed to notifying the physicians—

Mr. Foulds: Somebody should notify them.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Why does the member not wait? If his position is that the hospital ought to notify the parents, instead of the hospital notifying the physicians, then that is something of which I am certainly aware and I asked that

question myself. I must say there is a fair answer to that in that when the hospital contacts the physician—

Mr. McClellan: Why do you not try to find out and stop trying to pass the buck?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Why does the member not just sit there quietly?

It is fair to say the person who is responsible for the care of that patient is the physician. The person most able to interpret the actions that ought to be taken is the physician. I am not persuaded, but there is a fair argument to be put, that the hospital contacting the parents and saying their child has been in contact with salmonella will, quite obviously, leave a parent in a severe state of upset. The next thing the parent will do is ask the hospital whether the child should be readmitted and certainly call the family physician. It seems to me fair to put the onus upon the family physician immediately to take the appropriate steps to protect the care of his or her patient.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What were they told to do?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The hospital's responsibility is to notify the physician in charge of the health of his patient as to the problem and then the physician takes the appropriate steps. I certainly will take the step of calling the Burrows family and finding out if there was a seven-day lapse between the point at which the physician was informed of the problem and when the physician called the family.

If that is the case, the member ought to be fair to the hospital and to the MOH in indicating that the breakdown there was one which should properly be reported, if he is right, to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. It would indicate that the physician failed to notify his patient of a danger.

I would say to the member for Bellwoods, who is busy talking to the finance critic instead of listening to the answer to his question—

Mr. McClellan: Never mind your cheap shots.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. McClellan: I was discussing the inadequacy of the minister's answer.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member stood up and made an accusation yesterday with regard to his conversation with my staff. I then responded and indicated that his information was not accurate. He reported the information and the discussion with my staff inaccurately.

Mr. McClellan: I reported what your staff told me and you know it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Then the member left this assembly. His acting leader was responsible enough to indicate in this House that this was a serious matter that had to be handled very delicately and responsibly in order not to raise unnecessary fears. He also indicated appropriate steps should be taken to make sure the problem was adequately handled. He handled himself very responsibly.

The member for Bellwoods left this House yesterday, went out in the corridor and, in order to make sure he got his name in the paper, accused the Ministry of Health of being involved in a coverup.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You are ducking your responsibilities.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Just sit down and let me finish. That sort of thing—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, you heard the minister imputing motive.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Are you rising on a point of privilege?

Mr. McClellan: Yes. You heard the minister imputing motive. That is my point of privilege and I ask you to instruct him to withdraw—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the Minister of Health please confine himself to answering the question that was asked? Do not try and respond to the interjections, which may or may not be valid, but just confine yourself to the main question, please.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Did he impute or not?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think we need that sort of thing in this House. I would ask you to withdraw the statement that was made with regard to the member for Bellwoods.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Not having any competence in psychiatry, I should not have tried to speculate as to why the member for Bellwoods decided to go out in the hall and in front of the media make an accusation he did not make in the assembly. So I withdraw the allegation that in order to get his name in the newspaper he went out in the hall and said that.

Mr. Speaker: Now would you answer the question?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I would address this to you, both in your position as Speaker and in your position as the elected member for the area of Peterborough. I have answered the allegations raised and I have also indicated that, if I am not satisfied with the procedure, I will take steps immediately to

appoint inspectors in order to assure the good people of Peterborough that the situation is under control.

I did take some exception to the remarks of the member for Bellwoods, yesterday in particular, because I know the people in the city of Peterborough would want at least to be sure that the process was in place. They would want to know that competent people, including the thousands of people who work in my ministry, were hard at work on this situation and that the medical officer of health, who is competent and who the member for Bellwoods has not got the courage to say is incompetent, is in control of the situation.

The concern expressed by the acting leader for the third party—that unnecessary fears not be raised—is very important for the people in your riding, Mr. Speaker. Allegations that my ministry or the medical officer of health or whoever is involved in something relating to a coverup, when we are talking about communicable diseases, are so unfair and wrong—unfair, particularly, to the people of Peterborough—that I am not prepared to let those remarks of the member for Bellwoods go unanswered in this House under any circumstances.

Mr. Speaker: With all respect, I do not think I have heard in this chamber any allegations made about the competence of the minister, the ministry or the ministry staff.

10:50 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It was not in this chamber, but the point I was making was that the member told the media the Ministry of Health was involved in a coverup. I take objection to that.

Mr. Foulds: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Just so the minister does not accuse me of saying something outside the House that I will not say inside the House, let me remind the minister that surely it is his function ultimately to ensure the enforcement of the health legislation in this province.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member please resume his seat?

Ms. Capps: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: For the second day in a row we have heard ministerial statements as opposed to answers to questions. I would ask that you add five minutes to the question period as a result of a ministerial statement in response to questions outside the House.

Mr. Speaker: With all respect, that is not a point of order. I think the matter raised is of

extreme importance. If the minister had not responded to the interjections there would not have been as lengthy a discussion. We will have a new question from the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell).

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order—

Mr. Speaker: There is no point of order.

Ms. Copps: With respect, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: There is not. You are out of order.

ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. First, let me congratulate the minister on his appointment to the agriculture portfolio and let me say that we in the farm community hope his appointment is an indication this government has finally come to realize the importance of the agricultural industry to the economy of this province.

According to many farm economic analysts, agriculture is going through its worst crisis since the dirty '30s. Fortunately or unfortunately, the minister does not recall those years. Farmers are having a tough time securing short-term credit for spring planting. It is estimated as many as 25 per cent of Ontario's commercial farmers may go out of business this year because they just cannot get affordable credit.

If the Ontario farm adjustment assistance program is working as well as the minister stated yesterday, what reason can there possibly be for only 40 application approvals, considering there are some 6,000 farmers who are facing serious financial difficulties today? Why are there not numerous applications in the pipeline? Are the farmers being told by the bankers they do not qualify?

With the planting season just one month away and very little short-term credit available, what immediate assistance can the farmers expect from this government so they can purchase their seed, fertilizer, fuel, insecticides, herbicides and everything else needed for food production?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable member for his welcoming remarks. I only say that I do not think there has ever been a time in my experience in the Legislature, in almost 11 years of observing the actions of three other Ministers of Agriculture and Food, when agriculture has not been a priority with my party and with my government.

Mr. Riddell: Let the farmers decide that.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I am always willing to let the people decide, as they did a year ago next Friday.

Mr. Riddell: How many of the farmers' votes did you get?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The member should look over here. I would say we got a lot more than that party did, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Ruston: Not in the front row though.

Mr. Riddell: Not one of them was considered for Agriculture and Food.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Huron-Middlesex asked four questions and then he interjected with another. I would ask the Minister of Agriculture and Food to confine himself to the main question, which was the fourth one.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I am almost tempted to ask that they be repeated, Mr. Speaker, but I will not.

One of the prime requirements of the agriculture assistance program which has been put in place is that the applicants provide a year-end report of what actually happened in 1981 on their farms and also provide a plan for 1982. It is true at this point that the plan was officially launched on January 4. The number of applications actually in hand is small, although the number picked up by individual farmers is in excess of 800 as of the first of this week.

Frankly I think what is holding up getting these applications in larger numbers is the fact that they have not yet received their actual 1981 results from their auditors, their accountants or whomever they use. These are the reports I am getting from the agricultural representatives who have been giving me regular reports. I anticipate we will have quite a significant increase in the inflow of applications and we will process them as quickly as possible.

I would not want to say anything today that would change the intent of this program but it was never that the program would be the be-all and end-all for every farmer in the province. At this time there is something in the order of \$4 billion of outstanding credit in the farm sector of the province. There is no way the provincial government is going to presume to put itself in the position of displacing all other creditors and take over that entire field.

We were pleased the federal government saw fit in 1981 to make additional assistance available through the Farm Credit Corp. and through the initiatives with respect to small business

bonds, particularly making available to unincorporated farmers those financial instruments. As I indicated the other day—

Mr. Eakins: Turn the mattress over; put on the electric blanket.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: —I have written to Mr. Whelan asking that his actions with respect to the Farm Credit Corp. for what he refers to as the dire-straits category be extended. I would expect that with what we are doing with the \$60-million farm assistance program, plus the actions of the federal government, we should be able to help those farmers who have a viable plan for 1982.

I would remind the honourable member of a point that was made the other day when we met with some representatives of the Canadian Farmers' Survival Association. We noted that the combined effect of this program and the programs in 1981 for livestock producers put into the farm economy of this province commitments of \$120 million, which far exceeds the amount committed in 1981-82 by the Farm Credit Corp. of Canada for this province.

Mr. Riddell: To prevent a further decline of the agricultural industry in this province then, does the minister intend to implement a strategy for agriculture that would provide some long-term, rather than ad hoc, solutions to the financial problems facing agriculture? I would just remind him, if he would take a minute to read the OFA task force report—

Mr. MacDonald: What is the question?

Mr. Riddell: This is part of the question. A statement was made in that report by a former Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food, Ev Biggs, and I quote: "Band-Aid approaches are no longer acceptable. There must be a dedication and a commitment on the part of government not only to solving the problems of the moment but ensuring a sense of security for the future."

What specific programs does the minister intend to introduce that would go beyond merely allowing our farmers to survive but rather will allow them to become viable and competitive with the farmers in other provinces?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I have not met a farmer yet who would expect, after almost four weeks in the ministry, that I would have found the answers to all those problems. I do agree with the honourable member in the strongest possible terms that we have to develop

strategies and policies for the longer term. In that regard I will likely have more to say next week.

Mr. T. P. Reid: After 39 years in government—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I am keenly aware of the views expressed by the federation, individual farmers, associations, marketing boards and a whole multitude of individuals and organizations to the emergency task force, and many have been very good about sending me additional information. As well, I have been meeting with as many of the boards and organizations as time will permit, and I am going to meet with a lot more.

11 a.m.

The member will recall that on Tuesday there were a number of items in the throne speech which would indicate some of the priorities that I have been able to put in place in a very short time in the ministry, and I intend to do more based on full consultation with the farm community.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, the minister will recall that after the House adjourned in December, the government finally released its proposal of a \$60-million farm assistance program to the farmers. Is the minister aware of the fact that a detailed assessment of that program by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture indicated that, in the original guidelines for eligibility, no more than \$30 million, or one half, of the \$60 million would go out?

Will the minister not concede that the original program, as presented, was a failure and that he has already moved to compensate to some extent by the alleged broadening of it in the throne speech, which he detailed somewhat yesterday? Was his original program not a failure, and does he not concede that?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the program is brand new. It is impossible to make that kind of an assessment.

Mr. MacDonald: Why did the minister broaden it then?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I have seen no indication of this \$30-million figure in the correspondence I have received, nor was it indicated to me in the meeting I had with Mr. Barrie very soon after coming to this portfolio. I have never heard that. But I have heard from MPPs on both sides of the House, and particularly from members on this side such as the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) and the member for

Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. J. M. Johnson)—from those two in particular, but there are many others—who have expressed concern that perhaps there was a need to broaden those criteria to include certain types of operations, particularly the small ones.

My attitude was that it is better to err on the side of caution if I am going to err at all, therefore I recommended the broadening of two of the three criteria.

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the new Minister of Labour.

In view of the government's expressed commitment to human rights and sexual equality, and in view of the fact that the Block Drug Co. of East York requires its female employees to punch a time clock when entering and leaving the washroom, will the minister make a personal appeal to the management of the Block Drug Co. to end this outrageously discriminatory practice by removing the clock-punching routine for washroom visits and to treat its female employees in the same way it treats its male employees?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I share the concerns of my colleague across the floor and I will be happy to take the matter under advisement and see what I can do.

Ms. Bryden: I understand the women have registered a complaint with the Ontario Human Rights Commission but have been told that because of the backlog and shortage of staff, which is something the government should be correcting, the case will not be dealt with in less than a year. Therefore, it is extremely urgent that the minister deal with this case immediately so that this sexual discrimination in the work place does not continue. Perhaps he could ask for voluntary compliance with the prohibition against sex discrimination which is in the code.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I was not aware they had been advised that it would be at least a year before the case would be heard. I would like to look into that matter, and certainly I will consider the matter of voluntary compliance.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, is the minister going to intervene and do something to help these women?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I thought that was what I said in my earlier response.

ONTARIO STOCKYARDS

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Speaker, I would like to

address a question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food regarding a ministry decision which was announced on January 11—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Shymko: As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, it is regarding a ministry decision which was announced on January 11, 1982, which stated that the Ontario Stockyards will be retained in their existing location.

Since the decision was reached on the basis of a consultant's report which took into consideration only the views of those parties in whose interests it was to retain the stockyards at their present location, while in my opinion totally disregarding the commitment in the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development document to solicit the views of all interested groups, which include local residents, ratepayers' associations, union representatives of employees of the stockyards and the packers, the Junction business association and others, I would like to ask if the minister is prepared to make the so-called Kelljair Consultants Ltd. report public so that the process of full public consultation will be followed, as clearly expressed in the BILD statement?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This question was planted by the Larry for Leader group.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The member is a cynic.

Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to release the report to whomsoever wishes it. As the honourable member may know, when the decision was announced in January there were a number of communications to the ministry, some of which I have seen, indicating support for the position; they included a fairly strong letter from his worship the mayor of the city of Toronto. But certainly I will be pleased to release the report so that its contents and the information on which the ministry's and the government's decision was based will be known.

Mr. Shymko: I appreciate the minister's reply. I do have a supplementary, though. The January 11 press release states there is no significant overall benefit in moving the yards at this time and the BILD document itself speaks of developing a long-range plan for the stockyards.

The former minister, I believe, was prepared on October 22 to make a statement in the House inviting submissions and briefs from all peoples and groups with a serious interest in the future of the stockyards.

There are suggestions for some immediate improvements such as an overpass or an underpass for cattle crossing St. Clair Avenue. Will such improvements be taken into consideration immediately?

At the same time, according to these statements, do I understand the decision to be that relocation is not feasible except as a long-range proposition which would allow for further public consultation, including perhaps a long-range feasibility study?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I visited the stockyards on February 17 and then had a meeting with the board of the stockyards a week or 10 days later, at which time we discussed the plans they have developed to improve the yards and to address some of the problems which the honourable member and some of his constituents have raised from time to time.

The members will understand that if at any point we are to talk about moving the Ontario Stockyards, realistically we also have to talk in terms of moving all the packing houses as well. It is not just a matter of simply moving the stockyards.

Mr. Riddell: That is one thing you have grasped in your short period of time as minister.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The honourable member was very kind to observe that. That aside, the decision announced by my predecessor was fairly clear that, based on the report—which as I said I will be happy to provide to the member, and for that matter to anybody, with the caveat that it may take a few days to get copies printed since there may not be sufficient copies available—the ministry could see no reason to talk in terms of moving the yards and the packing houses at this time.

I suppose that can vary, but at the moment I cannot foresee contemplating moving them in the foreseeable future, particularly because since our decision was announced on January 11 we have had the indications of the federal government with respect to the Crow's Nest Pass rates. The concern has been expressed that one of the effects of that would be to make it more attractive for some of our packing houses to move west. I do not think we want to do anything to make that industry less viable or to make Ontario less attractive to it at this time.

11:10 a.m.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, if the government was considering moving the stockyards, why did it not do the study before using it as a vote-getting gimmick in the BILD program and

in the election? When they did do the study after the election, why did the person doing the study visit everybody except the union that represents the 5,000 workers involved? Why did he have the colossal effrontery to go to the union afterwards and ask them to write a letter commending his conclusion when they had not even been approached during the course of the study?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I am not familiar with the conduct of the study—

Mr. MacDonald: You double-crossed the member for High Park-Swansea, that is your problem. He is scalding at the moment, and rightly so.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Let me say this: The member has every right, as a private member of this assembly, to place before us on that table a resolution calling for the removal of the stockyards and the packing houses.

Mr. MacDonald: I am not in favour of that. You are playing games with it for political purposes.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: That is the about the first time I can find anywhere on the record the member giving an opinion one way or the other. Mostly he has danced around all over the place.

Mr. MacDonald: I have been on the record.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Fine, now you are on the record.

I will be glad to release that report. If the member wants to present a resolution that suggests we should go further, he should feel free to do so.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I want to return to the state of the economy, with a question to the Treasurer as chairman of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development.

In its speech from the throne the government went on at incredible lengths about its desire to put Ontario on a more positive economic track and it hailed the BILD program once again as an economic messiah that will take us all back to the promised land of full employment. In Windsor, that promised land has become a faded memory.

I want to return to the statistics the Treasurer used this morning and to report to him so that he can be aware of the actual numbers. According to the public relations officer at the Canada Employment Centre, Monroe Schooley, there

were 20,793 people registered for work in the city of Windsor in February. Of that 20,793, 12,332 were men and 8,461 were women, an unemployment level of 16.8 per cent. Six thousand plus are on welfare, and thousands more are leaving the city.

Mr. Speaker: I am waiting for the question.

Mr. Wrye: My question is this: What specific BILD initiatives does this government intend to offer Canada's fifth largest manufacturing centre to help get unemployed people back to work?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, obviously I cannot say whether the figures the honourable member has just read into the record are more accurate than the ones the government of Canada has given me. Most months he is very quick to jump up every time it suits him and wave around this sheet that comes from the federal government, and he will tell me it suits him.

Mr. Wrye: Why do you treat the unemployed so frivolously?

Mr. Speaker: Just ignore the interjection.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The statistics in front of me show that the actual rate, not the adjusted rate, of unemployment in Windsor in February 1981 was 16.1 per cent and in February 1982 was 7.6 per cent.

Mr. Wrye: It is more than seven per cent in my riding.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am only saying that is the information sent at 7 a.m. this morning from Ottawa to Toronto, based upon the figures that come from Canada Manpower. I do not say they are accurate, but we have always assumed they were in the past, and I do not recall anyone challenging that kind of information before.

As for what we are doing, I documented yesterday that the projects where commitments have been made are already well over the \$750 million of its own or provincial money that BILD said it would put up.

Mr. Wrye: How many in Windsor?

Hon. F. S. Miller: We are looking into the Windsor area. Just this week I announced the auto parts technology centre; it is not in Windsor—

Mr. Wrye: Nor is the product centre.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Fine, but the jobs in the auto parts technology centre, wherever it may be located, were not the key jobs we were hoping to create. Surely the major task facing small, Canadian independent parts manufac-

turers to access up-to-date technology to bring their unit costs down and to be competitive with foreign jurisdictions.

One of the major actions taken in the BILD document was to see that kind of facility would be in place for small, independent parts manufacturers to keep them going. That is one of a number of things.

Second, I hope the member will accept that transportation is a necessary component of any good industrial base. Again, we are looking at the whole corridor from Windsor right through to Quebec city for that matter, but only the parts that lay in Ontario can be dealt with by us to improve it. That is part of the BILD document.

The member throws his eyes up at the sky. I understand there is a major hotel of several million dollars' value being built in Windsor right now. Is that correct, or does the member not know what is happening in Windsor?

Interjection.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Oh, he doesn't know what is happening in Windsor.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the Treasurer just address himself to the question?

Interjections.

Mr. Boudria: Have you ever been to Windsor?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I have been to Windsor quite often.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I remind the honourable members that if they will just cease their interjections, the member for Windsor-Sandwich may have the opportunity of asking a supplementary.

Hon. F. S. Miller: In any case, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of other issues and I only suggest to the member that once in a while he not only take the BILD document but also look at BILD one year later.

Mr. Wrye: Perhaps the Treasurer will begin to understand the problem of unemployment if he gets a list of the almost 21,000 people who are unemployed. It is not 7.6 per cent.

I want to return to the matter of the automotive industry, because that is one of the reasons we have almost 21,000 people unemployed in the automotive centre of Canada. The government told us on Tuesday that the current state of the North American auto industry is "the greatest single impediment to the revitalization of Ontario's economy." The government promised that it would not stand idly by and let events

continue to take their course, saying the matter was too important and the consequences too serious.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Wrye: Other than convening meetings with federal ministers and other people and other than continuing to bash the feds, as the Treasurer has done again and again this morning, since this matter is so important, what specific initiatives does this province have to help the ailing North American auto industry? What money is the Treasurer prepared to spend?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I sense that was not quite a supplementary to the first question, Mr. Speaker. However, that does not matter. The fact remains that we have spent money in the member's area. He tends to forget that. Some of it preceded his time as a member. Certainly the \$68 million that went into Ford was ridiculed—

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I sometimes wish the people the member represents could see him when someone is trying to answer his question.

Ms. Copps: If you gave us television, they could.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That is why you lost; they finally could see you.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I cannot help asking, if we cannot have free speech in this place, where can we expect it?

PLANT SHUTDOWNS

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Labour. First, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome him to his position and hope that we can get some co-operation on some of the labour matters that will concern us.

Can the minister give this House an assurance that the 93 employees of the Galtaco foundry in Cambridge who were laid off on December 14 will receive severance pay?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I understand that matter is currently under consideration by the employment standards branch of the Ministry of Labour. I did meet with the representatives of the union and of the parent union two weeks ago to discuss this matter.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Pursuant to standing order 28(a), I wish to give notice of my dissatisfaction with the

answer of the Minister of Health and that I intend to raise the matter at the earliest possible adjournment.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. You will notify the table in the regular way.

11:20 a.m.

MOTION

SELECT COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that the select committee on pensions be authorized to sit on Monday, March 15, 1982.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

STANDING COMMITTEES

Hon. Mr. Wells moved resolution 1:

That the following standing committees be established for this session, with power to examine and inquire into all such matters as may be referred to them by the House, with power to send for persons, papers and things, as provided in section 35 of the Legislative Assembly Act:

Standing committee on general government; 12 members, with seven from the government party, three from the official opposition and two from the third party.

Standing committee on resources development; 12 members as above.

Standing committee on the administration of justice; 12 members as above.

Standing committee on social development; 12 members as above.

Standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments; 12 members as above, appointed for this session to be the committee provided for by section 12 of the Regulations Act and having the terms of reference as set out in that section, namely: to examine the regulations with particular reference to the scope and method of the exercise of delegated legislative power without reference to the merits of the policy or objectives to be effected by the regulations or enabling statutes, but in so doing regard shall be had to the following guidelines:

(a) Regulations should not contain provisions initiating new policy but should be confined to details to give effect to the policy established by the statute.

(b) Regulations should be in strict accord with the statute conferring of power, particularly concerning personal liberties.

(c) Regulations should be expressed in precise and unambiguous language.

(d) Regulations should not have retrospective effect unless clearly authorized by statute.

(e) Regulations should not exclude the jurisdiction of the courts.

(f) Regulations should not impose a fine, imprisonment or other penalty.

(g) Regulations should not shift the onus of proof of innocence to a person accused of an offence.

(h) Regulations should not impose anything in the way of a tax (as distinct from fixing the amount of a licence fee or the like).

(i) General powers should not be used to establish a judicial tribunal or an administrative tribunal.

And the committee shall from time to time report to the House its observations, opinions and recommendations as required by subsection 12(3) of the Regulations Act, but before drawing the attention of the House to a regulation or other statutory instrument the committee shall afford the ministry or agency concerned an opportunity to furnish orally or in writing to the committee such explanation as the ministry or agency thinks fit.

And the committee shall have power to employ counsel and such other staff as it considers necessary.

Standing committee on members' services; 12 members as above, to examine the services to members from time to time and, without interfering with the statutory responsibility of the Board of Internal Economy in such matters, be empowered to recommend to the consideration of the House matters it wishes to draw to the special attention of the board; and be empowered to act as an advisory committee to Mr. Speaker and the Board of Internal Economy on the administration of the House and the provision of services and facilities to members, and to draw the special attention of the House to such matters as the committee believes require it.

Standing committee on public accounts; 12 members, with six from the government party, four from the official opposition and two from the third party. The report of the Provincial Auditor for 1981-82 and the public accounts for 1981-82 are referred to the public accounts committee.

And that, unless otherwise ordered, substitution be permitted on all standing committees pro-

vided that written notice of substitution is given to the chairman of the committee before or early in the meeting.

Hon. Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Hon. F. S. Miller, that resolution 1 be amended by deleting the words "Standing committee on public accounts; 12 members, with six from the government party, four from the official opposition and two from the third party. The report of the Provincial Auditor for 1981-82 and the public accounts for 1982-82 are referred to the public accounts committee," and substituting therefor the following:

"Standing committee on public accounts; 12 members, with six from the government party, four from the official opposition and two from the third party to be appointed for this Parliament in accordance with standing order 91, and the report of the Provincial Auditor and the public accounts are referred to the said committee as they become available."

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I would like to put on the record the fact that in the last session a similar resolution appeared on the Order Paper as appearing now without the amendment read by the House leader. I think it was probably an oversight on all our parts that the public accounts committee was not struck at that time for the life of the Parliament. As a matter of fact, if we go back and look at the original motion when the Legislature first reconvened, we would find that was what was supposed to have been done.

The reason this is in the standing orders is to ensure continuity in the public accounts committee which I, perhaps not obviously, would believe is the most important standing committee of the Legislature. It is unfortunate that there was the original oversight and we hope this will rectify the situation.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I want to mention a couple of points briefly. You are aware that the procedural affairs committee has spent a number of its meetings reviewing the committee system and has made substantial recommendations to the House for some reforms in that system.

I personally believe the present lineup of committees is working reasonably well, probably as well as it ever has in my time, particularly in conjunction with the second resolution in the name of the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells), which indicates a specific time for the meetings so that there is no uncertainty about that.

People are pretty well accustomed to the

committee system as it is, but I do believe the work done by the procedural affairs committee was extremely valuable and indicated another approach to the committee system which I am sorry the House has not had an opportunity to examine more carefully. Frankly, I had hoped a new approach to the committee system might have been established for use during this session.

I say again that the present system is working quite smoothly, particularly in conjunction with the time slots which work as conveniently as they possibly can. My own desires in committee work actually go towards specific committees covering specific subjects such as education and agriculture.

There is one question I would like to put to you, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps the government House leader might respond. What is going to be the disposition of the recommendation from the standing committee on procedural affairs? Is it the government House leader's thought that over the next months we might come up with a new approach to committees which we could use in the fall, perhaps, or at a session a year from now?

Mr. Speaker: Just before the government House leader responds, I would ask all honourable members to please be quiet and allow the minister to reply to the questions asked.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to respond to that suggestion. I also read with interest the report of the procedural affairs committee on another committee structure and system. We had a few meetings in regard to that report and a number of questions were raised. We did not conclude our study, which was interrupted by the election. I am perfectly agreeable to sitting down again and looking at the committee structure.

I would like to review the committee structure of this House in conjunction with a general review of all the rules of the House. I think this probably could be undertaken by various bodies. I know the procedural affairs committee is looking at that at present. House leaders and others, I am sure, will be studying that over the next few months. But, as far as committees are concerned, I would be happy to give my friend the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk the undertaking he has asked for.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution, as amended, agreed to.

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Hon. Mr. Wells moved resolution 2:

That this House endorses the following schedule for committee meetings during this session:

The standing committee on social development may meet on the afternoons of Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The standing committee on resources development may meet on the evenings of Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The standing committee on general government may meet on Wednesday afternoons.

The standing committee on administration of justice may meet on Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings.

On Wednesday mornings no more than two of the following committees may meet without leave of the House: general government, resources development, administration of justice.

The following committees may meet on Thursday mornings: public accounts, procedural affairs, regulations and other statutory instruments.

The following committee may meet on Thursday afternoons: members' services.

Motion agreed to.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Hon. Mr. Wells moved resolution 4:

That Mr. Cousens, member for York Centre, be appointed Deputy Chairman of committees of the whole House for this session.

Motion agreed to.

House in committee of supply.

The Deputy Chairman: I would like to thank the Premier (Mr. Davis), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson), the acting leader of the third party, the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds), and all fellow honourable members of this House for the honour you have given me in appointing me Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House. I will seek to do my very best to be fair to all parties and to all persons according to the rules of the House, and I ask for your support.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wells, the committee of the whole House reported progress.

INTERIM SUPPLY

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for interim supply for the period April 1, 1982, to June 30, 1982.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I rise to participate in the debate because I am deeply concerned about the way this government has squandered the opportunities of this province. In particular, as housing critic, I think no area is more obvious to illustrate the failure of this government than

the way in which they have not provided those opportunities for the most essential commodity in a civilized society.

11:30 a.m.

As critic for our party, I have become acutely aware of the poor track record of those two ministries most directly concerned with housing, namely, the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The record of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) is bad because of the abominable manner in which he has handled the rent review program and the condominium legislation. That of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) suffers because he too is directly connected with that area.

The tragic fact is that many of the dreams of the people in my riding and across this province—dreams of owning their own home, of providing a place of security and a place of investment for their old age—have been tragically dropped as the result of the inaction of this government. The fact is that many of the people in my riding simply cannot afford to own a home now.

According to the Toronto Real Estate Board the average price of a home sold by the multiple listing service in Metropolitan Toronto and district during January 1982 was \$97,235. Although this represents a decline of \$1,319 or 1.3 per cent from the average of December 1981, and the average price of a home has fallen in four of the last six months, the number of monthly sales remains far below the levels posted in early 1981.

It is not as though there are not people out there who want to own homes. The fact is that high mortgage interest rates, with 19.5 per cent being charged for five-year money now by most lenders still in the field, continues to depress the demand for homes. Yet the affordability problem that we stressed last year remains very severe for most of the population.

The average price for the first month in 1982 in Metropolitan Toronto was \$19,947, or 25.8 per cent higher than the first month of 1981. In other words the financial obstacle to home ownership which was thrown up in the 1981 boom is still substantially in place despite the slight declines in recent months.

Had the increase in home prices corresponded with the rate of inflation a buyer would be faced with a January 1982 cost of some \$9,200 ahead of that in January 1981. But the speculation and panic buying, which this government

did nothing to discourage last year, added more than \$10,000 to the average price of a home on top of that inflationary increase.

Inflated prices and continuing high interest rates produced the high carrying costs. Using our standard assumption of 10 per cent down payment, mortgage amortized over 25 years, a five-year term, and property taxes of about \$1,000, the cost of carrying a \$97,235 house at 19.5 per cent would be \$1,533.57 a month, or \$18,402.84 per year. Since the gross debt service ratio of home owners is generally not permitted to exceed 30 per cent, shelter costs for this average home would supposedly require a gross family income of \$61,342.80 a year, which is ludicrously above average.

January's average home would be within the means of an Ontario cabinet minister. We figure it would be \$63,000 a year, made up of the \$30,000 salary of a member of the provincial Parliament, plus the tax-free allowance of \$10,000, plus his ministerial stipend of \$23,000. But the income of a back-bencher would not be sufficient to carry a home in Metropolitan Toronto at these prices.

If a new MPP, with his or her salary, cannot afford to own a home in this city, what about the average wage-earner? The Ontario average family income is estimated by Statistics Canada as \$28,086 in 1980. If we inflate this by 12 per cent, which probably overstates the gain actually registered in 1981, it would now stand at \$31,456. Applying the 30 per cent guideline, and assuming annual property taxes to be \$1,000, this would allow the average family to meet mortgage and tax payments of \$8,437 a year, or \$703 a month, which would carry a mortgage of just below \$45,000 at current rates.

Thus, if a family with the average income bought last month, it would be able to afford some 83 homes in Metropolitan Toronto. By that, I mean about 5.5 per cent of the market. These figures are roughly 51 out of 199 condominium apartments sold, 14 out of 202 condominium town houses and only 18 out of the 1,107 single-family homes that were sold.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is fond of telling us we are alarmists, that we always talk about Metropolitan Toronto, but that we should understand some people have to realize they simply cannot afford to live in this city and, therefore, they have to lower their expectations and live elsewhere. Although I disagree with that argument I would like to examine what happens in another municipality.

I was recently speaking in the city of Cam-

bridge. Before I went there I calculated the figures as they would apply to that municipality. According to Mr. Russ Donnelly, president of the real estate board of Cambridge, there have been 100 homes sold to date this year via the multiple listing service, for a gross value of \$5,378,500. That produces an average sale price of \$53,785.

However, Donnelly cautions that this figure is increased somewhat by the continuing strong sales at the top end of the market. He therefore offered his professional guesstimate that a true average would be somewhere around \$49,600. If we take that figure, it probably would be wise to see what exactly that does to the average family in that community.

Using the standard assumptions that we used in averaging in Metropolitan Toronto—namely, 10 per cent down on the mortgage at 19.5 per cent over a five-year term, amortized over 25 years, and with \$1,000 property tax—a \$49,000 house would require the purchaser to pay \$679.40 a month, or \$8,152.88 a year for the mortgage. Taxes would bring the minimum monthly outgoings for shelter to \$762.73 and the annual cost would be \$9,152.76. To meet these costs at 30 per cent of income would require a gross income of \$30,509.

The latest income data for that area is Statistics Canada's average industrial composite weekly wage for the Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo region. The latest figures I have are for August 1981 and the average works out to \$314 per week. That produces a gross income of \$16,332.10, which translates into a shelter cost, using the 30 per cent guideline, of \$4,899.60. In other words, the average family living in that smaller community many miles from Metropolitan Toronto, could only afford about three per cent more than half the cost of carrying the home.

11:40 a.m.

Last year, we in the New Democratic Party warned that the government must distinguish between speculating and investment, investment being a positive thing and speculating being a negative factor on the housing market. We tabled a resolution that read as follows: "Resolved: That in the opinion of the House, the government of Ontario should take immediate steps to develop programs and introduce legislation designed to alleviate the current housing crisis evidenced by the rapidly increasing price of houses and diminishing stock of decent affordable housing in Ontario, and that in particular, the government should introduce

a housing speculation tax in the assembly to tax away speculative profits made by persons who buy and sell housing and land for the purpose of making easy profits in a speculative market"—but that includes a special exemption for home owners selling residences they occupy and for long-term investors who provide affordable rental accommodation.

It is amazing, but there are now companies in Metropolitan Toronto that are not content to speculate in individual family houses and condominium units. We see a constant pattern now by certain companies that are based in western Canada, and Lord only knows where their original money comes from, that are in the apartment speculation business. We can see that by the rate at which they are turning over apartment buildings.

Second, we advocated that the government sponsor the establishment of a select committee of the assembly to inquire into and assess the impact of the flow of foreign speculative capital on the province's housing market.

Real estate agents in this city tell me there are certain condominium buildings for which they have an open order from Vancouver-based speculators and speculating companies to buy whenever a unit becomes available. Likewise money is coming in from outside the province, even from foreign countries, to speculate in our housing market. This, of course, has nothing more than an inflationary effect on our market, not just on home ownership but also on rental accommodation.

Third, we asked that we establish effective housing programs to produce and upgrade the stock of decent affordable housing in Ontario. I will deal later with that one item at greater length, looking at some of the minister's so-called programs.

My colleague, the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds), our deputy leader, has dealt at some length with some of the very specific proposals that we in this party have been advocating and I would like to address myself to a couple of them which he did not go into in great detail.

First of all, our proposal to stimulate the housing sector would involve a \$150-million commitment to increase co-op housing starts and conversions. The program would provide a \$10,000 interest-free loan for every unit constructed. It would stimulate 15,000 new units and increase Ontario's housing starts by up to one third for the year 1982.

In terms of employment, these 15,000 units

would generate about 18,000 construction and directly related jobs. In addition, a further 14,000 jobs would be needed in indirectly related industries, such as furniture manufacturing, carpets, drapery and other industries. It would provide about \$8 million in provincial sales tax, more than \$500 million in wages, more than \$20 million in provincial income tax, and \$50 million in federal income tax. It would also provide housing at a time when housing is so desperately needed in this province. The program would cost the government, but the effect of that expenditure would be immeasurably greater than that of the recent cheque for \$650 million to create jobs in another province.

We also talked about the need for the government of this province to follow the lead of other governments, not necessarily NDP governments but even Conservative governments such as the government of Alberta, and get into the banking business in a provincial way. This Conservative government has succeeded in trying to convince everyone, or has tried to convince the many residents of Ontario anyway, that the high-interest problem is purely a federal matter. That, of course, was the thrust of the throne speech. The Ontario government has a number of vehicles available to it and it is not good enough to simply cry that the Liberal government is the only villain.

The fact is that one of the vehicles for providing lower-interest loans and mortgages is not a new one. It has existed in this province since 1919. The United Farmers government started the Province of Ontario Savings Office and the primary purpose of the establishment for the Province of Ontario Savings Office was to borrow money by accepting deposits from the public and to make low-cost improvement loans available to farmers. It is interesting that with the return of the Conservatives to power in 1923, with the defeat of the last progressive government in this province, the farm loan program was suspended and the Province of Ontario Savings Office became a vehicle to encourage and promote thrift among Ontarians.

Mr. Nixon: When was that?

Mr. Philip: That was 1923. As I say, it was the defeat of the last progressive government. Certainly the governments that followed were not terribly progressive.

At present the primary function of the savings office is to take savings deposits from the public. At this time the deposits total somewhere just over \$600 million. There are only 21 branches now in existence and none of them is in northern

Ontario. In contrast to the \$640-odd million on deposit in this province, Alberta has \$2.3 billion in its treasury branches and a loan portfolio in excess of \$1.9 billion. If Ontario were to provide branches equivalent to that of Alberta there would be 865 branches instead of the 21 that now exist.

We in Ontario already have in existence a vehicle by which we could provide competition to the banking system that is already making exorbitant profits. We should look at the west. We should look at the proposals that have been made by Dave Barrett in British Columbia and even look at the proposals already put in action by the Alberta Conservative government.

Just as this government has failed home owners and would-be home owners, so too it has failed tenants. The person who, until a few days ago, held the post responsible for rent review has floated one trial balloon after another as to how he can weaken that rent review system, or perhaps in his view strengthen it on behalf of landlords and corporate interests. First, he wanted to reduce the ceiling above which apartments were exempt. When we asked him what he thought a luxury apartment cost, he said, "Five hundred dollars a month." Of course, \$500 a month in Metropolitan Toronto does not buy one very much. Then he changed his mind about that. We found out he was going to centralize all the rent review offices to make it harder for small landlords and, indeed, harder for tenant groups to appear and present their views.

11:50 a.m.

I have introduced in this Legislature some 15, 16 or 17 private member's bills—I have not counted them lately—dealing with concrete ways in which rent review and landlord and tenant legislation could be improved. We have disagreed with the positions of the Liberal and Conservative parties who have refused to extend rent review to buildings occupied after January 1, 1976. We have disagreed with that kind of discrimination which affects certain areas such as my riding and the various ridings in Scarborough and Mississauga where a large part of the rental accommodation is new accommodation. That was where the land was available to build the new apartments.

We would also put an end to the disgraceful practice tolerated by the Residential Tenancy Commission of allowing landlords to raise new equity by floating a new mortgage on a building so that he can invest in some other business venture and pass on these costs, which are unrelated directly to the building, to the tenant.

That was the most recent glaring example of how the rent review system is not working. If we check the interpretation guidelines turned out by the Residential Tenancy Commission it says, and I quote from the October 22, 1979, rent review guidelines on financing costs, under item 2: "Rents should not be increased because of the financing costs incurred by mortgaging a residential tenancy complex to obtain funds for use elsewhere." Yet we have had at least two recent cases where that has been done by rent review officers in apparent disregard for their own guidelines.

One has to say to the new minister that we would hope he would take a closer look at the rent review process. We would hope he would look at the bills I have introduced and which have been endorsed by the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations as being greatly needed to improve and facilitate the way in which the rent review process works.

This government has also failed to enact conflict of interest legislation. I asked the previous minister about the concern of many tenant groups that residential tenancy officers, people who were making decisions on rent review acting in a quasi-judicial manner, were then going out within days and appearing before those same bodies on behalf of landlords. When I brought that to his attention, he said it seemed like a very good job and maybe he would look into it himself. Much as we would enjoy having him go and look for another job, since he did not do a very good job of the one he had undertaken as Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, that kind of flippant remark and insensitivity to the role of quasi-judicial bodies I would think would certainly shock the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry). I hope the present minister does not share that attitude.

Only a few weeks ago I brought a delegation of representatives of tenant groups before the Residential Tenancy Commission. We met with the chairman and were treated quite hospitably. They sat down with us and we expressed our concerns about the need for conflict of interest guidelines.

I think it is the role of the minister, not the Residential Tenancy Commission, to come down with guidelines. It is the role of this minister that we are now talking to as a member of cabinet to see that conflict of interest guidelines come down, not just for the Residential Tenancy Commission but for the government. It is inappropriate for a minister, a deputy minister, or anyone who has served in a quasi-

judicial capacity, to appear either by writing or the telephone or physically in an advocacy capacity with that body for which he was responsible.

I do not know how many scandals we need in this government to show that point. A few years ago we had the scandal of the Ontario Highway Transport Board. Then we had the Re-Mor thing in which an ex-cabinet minister was running back and forth as a messenger boy for Mr. Montemurro and his gang.

Now, of course, we have the examples of the careless way in which the Residential Tenancy Commission actually has people who had been acting as rent review officers appearing within days before that very body. I do not know whether or not they get favours. I would not suggest they do. In fact, it may work in the reverse. If I were a rent review officer and saw a colleague appearing before me, I would probably bend over backwards to make sure I was fair. It might be a disadvantage in that I could subconsciously create a disadvantage for his client.

But whether an injustice is committed or not, not only must justice be done but it also must appear to be done. The federal government responded to the problem of conflict of interest. The federal government, on which this minister likes to put all the blame, certainly brought in conflict of interest guidelines and legislation. The federal government was able to deal with it.

When we look at other jurisdictions, when we look at the Interstate Commerce Commission in the United States, we see they are sensitive to the way in which quasi-judicial bodies operate. But they are sensitive to the fact that people appearing before those bodies must feel justice is going to be done and that impartiality will be exercised. I wonder then why this government has been so reluctant to act.

I can accept the flippancy of the former Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I realize he probably is not sensitive to this issue, let alone to other issues. But I would expect that at least the Attorney General, the chief law officer, the chief justice officer in this province, would be sensitive to it.

I can only say that it is not just a tenants' issue. It is an issue of this government. It is an issue that was understood by a colleague of mine from the Conservative Party who brought in a bill quite similar to mine. He arrived at it independently, without any consultation with me. We did not conspire and sit down together and come up with a bill.

The member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyn) saw there was an obvious injustice and the injustice appeared to him to be so blatant that he introduced a bill, I think two or three days after mine, that was fairly close in substance. The difference was that he would have a one-year period before a former tribunal officer or high level civil servant or minister could appear; I would advocate two years. But the principle was essentially the same. So this is not a partisan issue.

Surely it is a matter of common sense that if you are going to have quasi-judicial bodies they have to be independent and they have to appear to be independent. I ask why this government has been so reluctant to follow the lead of other jurisdictions, or to at least follow the lead in some of the good things the federal government does since it is so critical of everything else the federal government is doing.

Just as this government has failed tenants living in private enterprise housing, so it has failed tenants living in geared-to-income housing. The justice committee, which I chaired for a number of years during the minority government, undertook an extensive study of Ontario housing. We visited projects; we acted, I think, in a very nonpartisan way and we dealt with some of the gut issues of not only the tenants but also of the employees of that body and of the people in the community. We did so whether they were elected representatives or community leaders or people living in the neighbourhoods in the areas of various kinds of geared-to-income housing.

There were 119 specific recommendations in the report. That report was completed before the election of March 19 but was not tabled in this House until after it. The Conservatives showed how they felt about the report by defeating the motion to adopt it. That is a kind of arrogance. Instead of saying here are some good, common-sense business recommendations, they are recommendations that will not only make Ontario housing and other forms of geared-to-income housing more liveable and more acceptable to the community at large, but they will also save the taxpayers money.

12 noon

Instead of saying, "Yes, we agree with them," or even, "We agree with items 1, 5, 7 and 8," and list them and say, "We will implement those but we will not implement the others," the government sat on it, defeated the adoption of the report in its entirety, voted against that report and we can see the mess we are in now as a result of it.

The government is now boasting that it is encouraging the construction of rental accommodation. As my colleague the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) has pointed out, there are people in this city who are sleeping in the corridors or the stairwells of city hall because they are out on the street. There are people in this city who are not fortunate enough to have a family, who are not old enough to fall into geared-to-income seniors' housing and who are not disabled enough to fall into geared-to-income housing for the disabled.

I had one case of a young man who, in a state of depression, managed to jump off a building. The building he jumped off was not high enough to kill him, so he was crippled. However, even though he has a degenerating condition, even though he has no major source of income and even though he is unemployed, because he is mobile he cannot be accommodated in geared-to-income housing so he has to find accommodation in some rooming house or other place.

In the city of Toronto, we have seen that rooming houses and other forms of inexpensive accommodation which used to exist are now disappearing. This government does nothing about the speculators and whitewashers who are going into the downtown core of the city and completely eliminating any kind of facilities for that type of person.

This fellow called me one night and said, "I want to thank you for what you have done for me but I just want to tell you that I may not have picked a high enough building last time, but I am going to pick one this time." It is tragic. What do I do as an MPP in dealing with this? I am not a professional counsellor. I was able to connect him with a religious group that at least would talk to him. The fact that someone is so desperate for housing that he intends to commit suicide as a result is a desperate situation and an inhumane one in a civilized society.

The minister, with the usual line of this government, blames it all on the federal government. He says, "The federal government has not entered into agreements with us for those people who are not classified as families under our formula." On no occasion has he suggested that he has gone to the federal government and asked for that kind of negotiation. He has never asked for them to be included, so it is a cop-out. It is "blame the feds but we really do not want it either and if the feds ever suggested it, we probably would not go along with it."

If we look at the Ontario rental construction

loan program which is spending \$90 million and is creating 5,230 units in Metro, none of it will necessarily be committed to rent supplement programs or to deal with housing for the poor. There is no binding agreement that guarantees this. There is no binding agreement in the contract which requires that up to 25 per cent of the units in the complex must be offered.

Furthermore, the ORCL program has been most generous in Bramalea which got the lion's share of the units—1,245 in Brampton. I am not suggesting the units went into that riding because the Premier (Mr. Davis) happens to live there. We know where the land is available, and land is available for construction in that area. However, most people work in the downtown and other areas of Toronto, and creating units in the Brampton area does not solve the housing problem for these people.

The turnover rate in Ontario housing in Metro has declined steadily over the past three years—12 per cent in 1979, 11 per cent in 1980 and 10 per cent in 1981. What does the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Treasurer intend to do about this critical shortage of assisted housing in this city? It is getting to the point where it is easier to get somebody a job with the liquor control board than it is to get them a unit in OHC.

There is no guarantee indicated in the ORCL program. Will the minister guarantee that some maximum number of units, such as 25 per cent, be taken up under the rent supplement program? I am getting signals that some other members want to speak so I will be brief. Will the minister provide a program to complement the existing federal nonprofit and co-operative programs, to increase significantly the number of directly assisted housing units in this province?

This problem is not one of government will—I am sure this government wants to do what is right; it knows that there are people looking for housing and unable to get it—the problem is one of ideology. The problem is that this government refuses to accept the fact that the private enterprise system cannot supply all, or even a majority, of the housing needs in certain metropolitan areas.

Since this government does not seem to accept any of the facts we have given them, I must conclude that they do not understand. Perhaps I can read them a poem which I think expresses what is happening in the housing

industry. Maybe it will help them to understand. It was written by J. D. Ketchum and reads as follows:

Free Enterprise does not, of course, mean actual competition,
And cutting prices—God forbid! That's treason and sedition.

A "Gentlemen's Agreement" is the best of all devices

To stabilize our dividends, our markets, and our prices.

For taking risks we've little love; we set our whole affection

On something like monopoly, with adequate protection.

That is the kind of thing then that this government is sponsoring. That is the kind of thing they are dealing with when they talk about housing, and that is why this government is not acting on the housing problems in this province.

Mr. Riddell: I will be very brief, Mr. Speaker. This interim supply motion will authorize the expenditure of \$5 billion between now and the end of June. I believe that much of this expenditure will be used to pay the salaries of civil servants. None of us minds the civil servants being paid their very attractive salaries—except for those civil servants at the top levels, whose salaries, I might say, are most attractive, far in excess of salaries paid elected members, with the exception, perhaps, of ministers of the crown.

It is my firm belief that part of the reason Ontario is in its present very serious economic decline is these top-level civil servants, who have been shaping policy for this government. I really have to ask whether they can justify their \$60,000, \$70,000 and \$80,000 salaries, when there are between 350,000 and 400,000 people in Ontario now unemployed.

They are unemployed partly because of the faulty government policies which reflect such priorities as the purchase of 25 per cent of Suncor—for whatever reason we do not know; it did not create one job in this province—and the purchase of a \$10-million jet for no other reason than to give the Premier (Mr. Davis) a chance to go on his ego missions. The Premier was not going to stand to have Lougheed travelling around in jets when he was having to lease a plane or travel by some other mode of transportation in order to get to his destination.

12:10 p.m.

I just cannot believe the priorities that are established by this government. Let me just

refer to a one-page story in the London Free Press showing the recently appointed Minister without Portfolio standing beside his chauffeur-driven car, a great big picture: "As a cabinet minister, Bob Eaton gets a chauffeur-driven car. Here he is picked up by driver Frank Anderson of Toronto." At Sutton Place the limousines are lined up to pick up the ministers to take them one block and drop them off at the Legislature. This obviously appears to be the priority of this government, when there are so many unemployed people in the province.

I can imagine a painting hanging in the art gallery some day, and I am not being facetious about this; I have given this a lot of thought. As I was driving home the other day, I could just imagine a painting hanging in the art gallery, dated perhaps 1982 or 1983 or 1984, and in the painting we have internment camps. We have been reading a little bit about internment camps. I do not know what they are all about. I do not know whether they are being established or whether the government intends to establish them, but a farmer who has been travelling this country came into my office and he not only showed me, but showed some of my colleagues pictures that he had taken of an internment camp that allegedly is being constructed somewhere in this country.

If this is the case, what is the government expecting? Is the government expecting that the one million-plus people who are unemployed in this country are going to riot, that they are no longer going to take the present situation that they are some day going to have to go begging for the next loaf of bread on the table? Is this the purpose of these internment camps we are reading about? I hope not. Can't you imagine—

Hon. F. S. Miller: They are federal camps.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Riddell: All right, but this government is partly responsible, too, for the unemployment in this province.

The Deputy Speaker: On a point of order, the Treasurer.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It is a point of privilege because the member is implanting by a very Machiavellian route the idea that somehow these are related to this government. He knows they are in Alberta—I have talked to the same farmer—and they are federal. Let us make that clear.

Mr. Riddell: I did not say they were not federal, but I am also saying that we have

unemployed people in this province who are no longer going to put up with the inadequate policies of this government.

Let me get back to the painting. Here we have the internment camp with all these people inside and we have farmers standing guard over their property, just defying anyone to come in to take that property away from them. We have ghost towns showing vacant stores, showing vacant houses, but coming out of the horizon is a little speck. If one takes a closer look one will see it is an airplane, the \$10-million jet that the Premier is riding in, looking down over this internment camp and saying to himself: "I wonder how that ever happened. I am sure glad—"

Mr. Breaugh: You have got to stop toking in the morning.

Mr. McClellan: It is good. You're flying. Keep going.

Mr. Riddell: "I am sure glad that I am not confined in the same quarters."

Hon. F. S. Miller: What does he smoke?

Mr. Nixon: Withdraw.

Mr. Breaugh: I think he is mainlining.

Mr. Riddell: The minister may think it is funny, but he should just thank his lucky stars that he is not one of the unemployed.

I am going to tell this government, it is guilty for the jobless in this country to a large extent. Why do I say that? I can recall, when I was first elected, this government let the sugar beet industry in Ontario slip right away. There was no reason for that. We should have a sugar beet industry in this province. Alberta has one. But because this government failed to come to the aid of an industry that was somewhat struggling—but, as far as I was concerned, the struggle was only of a temporary nature—we could have had an industry and we could have had many people working in that industry.

The government let the sugar beet industry go and instead of replacing it with something else, it simply turned a blind eye and said, "Well, let nature take its course." What could it have done? It could have immediately looked into the establishment of a tomato paste plant. If those people in that part of Ontario could not continue to grow sugar beet, they certainly could grow tomatoes. But no, the only talk we hear now about a tomato paste processing plant is at this particular time.

I can recall when our dairy industry was allowed to slip away from us, when we lost a lot of our quota to Quebec, simply because we, as a

provincial government, were sitting on our backsides and failed to realize what was really taking place. Therefore, we did not get our farmers to gear up in dairy production and Quebec did. That province could see the writing on the wall. It could see the quota system coming and, therefore, it ended up with a larger percentage of the quota than it actually should have received based on population.

Our government acted after the horse had escaped and the minister introduced the industrial milk production incentive program loan, but it was too late. That is just another indication of where this government has faltered as far as job retention and job creation are concerned. We have also allowed a lot of our cheese factories to slip away from us and look at the number of people that has put out of work.

I could go on and talk about the ways this government has erred in its policies in trying to keep Ontario as one of the top agricultural provinces in Canada. We have lost that status. We have become a have-not province, partly because of the decline in the agricultural industry, along with the decline in the manufacturing sector. But the minister and the Premier are too proud to stand up and say: "Yes, we have become a have-not province. Yes, we would like to get that equalization payment from the federal government." No, they are too proud.

I can tell the government, had it asked for the something like the \$1.8 billion we were entitled to, had it swallowed its pride and asked for it and applied it to the agricultural industry, we might not be in the situation we are in today.

I can think of many ways of getting jobs created again through government policy and I could talk about those measures in the agricultural industry. It may seem a small item, but we could create jobs by getting people to tear down some of the old barns that are marring our landscape. Members can all recall when the government introduced a policy to take down the dead elm trees that had been affected by Dutch elm disease. Why not give jobs to those people to go around and tear down some of the old barns that are practically falling down and really marring the landscape? That is just one example of how we could create jobs.

Another example may well be to have some kind of co-operation between the government and the farm machinery industry, whereby farmers could lease their equipment rather than have to buy \$100,000 tractors and \$100,000 to \$200,000 combines. We could enter into that co-operation and have people going out with

machinery and actually putting in the crops for the farmers. That is another indication of how we could create jobs.

We should be getting a tomato paste processing plant established to allow those farmers in southwestern Ontario and elsewhere to produce the tomatoes for a product that we are largely importing at the present time.

12:20 p.m.

There are many ways, in my estimation, that we could create jobs, solely in the agricultural industry. I will not take any more time, because I know there are some other members who want to speak.

I am just saying we have had our priorities all mixed up. We have simply ignored the agricultural industry to the point now where we are no longer considered to be the breadbasket of Canada. Quebec is fast picking up that status, as are the western provinces, and there is absolutely no reason for it. We have the soils in this country, we have the ideal climate and we have the people and the expertise to farm our land.

It is time that the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell), who I am glad to see is sitting here and listening, shaped and implemented an agricultural policy such as his deputy minister has been calling for ever since he was appointed to that position. The deputy minister is a man whom I consider to be a very high-profile person in the services of the government, Duncan Allan. One of the first statements he made was that Ontario has been lacking an agricultural policy.

I would like to see the minister take hold of that and read the Ontario Federation of Agriculture task report again, where it states that ad hoc programs are no longer acceptable and that we have to have some long-term strategy. I am sure if the minister were to implement that program he would probably satisfy not only the concerns of the agricultural community but also likely his own personal interest. I do not want to get into that. We know he has some higher goals established and, if he can do a good job in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, he is well on his way to accomplishing those goals. There is a twofold reason for him to do a good job in the agricultural industry of this province and we are really looking forward to seeing some tremendous improvements within that industry.

I should also mention the tender fruit industry and indicate how it has been allowed to slip away from us, considering the number of canning plants we had at one time. Now we are down to something like two.

Mr. Haggerty: American-owned.

Mr. Riddell: And they are American-owned. Yet we can produce the fruit in this country. Another thing we should be looking at is re-establishing some of these canning factories, because we are importing so much of that produce now while we should be producing it and processing it right in this country.

Let us get our priorities straight. If we are going to pay these high salaries to civil servants, and that is why we are dealing with this motion right now, let us make darned sure the civil servants are doing the job they were hired to do, particularly those at the top level: to assist the ministers to shape the kind of policies we need to get Ontario moving again.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, I am not anxious to prolong this debate, but I would like to get a few things on the record before this matter is dealt with.

I do not think there is a member of this Legislature, through the constituency offices, who has not been impressed with the very severe hardship that people in Ontario are facing, perhaps now more than at any point in modern time. Whether it is a citizen coming in to the help centre of the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) or to the advisory centre of the member for St. David (Mrs. Scrivener), every one of us must be painfully aware of what a severe problem we have in our economy today.

In this Legislature we deal with statistics that are seasonally adjusted, and sometimes we are just seasonally adjusting misery. The harsh facts of reality are that, notwithstanding their sincere efforts to find employment or to develop commerce, many of our people can neither find business nor work; many have given up and they do not even find themselves on seasonally adjusted statistical analyses of unemployment. Thousands are laid off.

In my own community, we had a terrible strike at Stelco Inc. The strike concluded and then people were laid off. The grief and hardship so many people in that community have faced after that incident is absolutely inconceivable. We have layoffs at National Steel Car, even layoffs at small businesses that heretofore have done very well in our economy. We have people who are working half time or who are working even at marginal rates at half time. The problem is growing.

In the 1978 budget I believe the Treasurer at the time, Mr. McKeough, indicated we would have somewhere in the area of 316,000 people out of work. I suggest that if our statistics

actually calculated the number of people who are unemployed in Ontario, that figure now would be well over 400,000. That is something no one should be proud of. I believe, sadly, that unless we take some meaningful action now, that is going to get worse.

We continue to seek workers from Europe and elsewhere. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) made reference to this last night. We advertise in England, Scotland and Europe for skilled tradespeople and yet thousands of our own youth remain unemployed.

We have been warned about this in the past. In the early 1900s we had in this province a royal commission on job apprenticeship and job training. In the middle 1960s, then Premier Robarts spoke very clearly and succinctly of the potential difficulty that was going to exist in finding skilled workers for the new trades and the technical trades that were going to be developed in Ontario.

More recently, the then Minister of Industry and Tourism, who is now the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman), indicated we may be three or four years away from creating the skilled workers and employees to work in our high-technology industry. I say to you, Mr. Speaker—you were not there then—where have these people been and what have they been doing while these problems developed?

I think of the difficulty for people who have jobs in what they would categorize as commission sales, whether it is the real estate business or the insurance business. I had a lady in my office the other day who broke down; she was in tears. Her husband had become ill off the job. It was not a workmen's compensation situation. There are no benefits available for this man. He may not be able to be trained or to go back to work again. He is seriously ill.

In his place, she went out to find work. She entered the life insurance business. With the economy the way it is, which is right down, if people are finding things tight, and they are, they certainly are not buying life insurance. They are paying their mortgages if they are lucky, they are buying food if they are lucky or they are putting gas in their gas tanks, much of which goes to an ad valorem gas tax which I might deal with a little later.

The member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) indicated earlier today that about 25 per cent of our farmers may go out of business this year. This must be a major concern for each and every one of us in this House, regardless of our political persuasions.

I think of a young man in my constituency who is slightly older than me who gave up a small construction business to go into the farming business. He was raised on a farm and wanted to raise his children in that healthy environment. He gave up a good construction job to do it.

He spent six years of his life working the soil, redeveloping a farm that had not been used for 20 or 30 years. He put money into equipment, implement sheds and the development of that business, only to find after a couple of years of unfortunate bad crop failures and high interest rates that he may not have the credit this year to start that farm up again one month from now. That is a major concern.

I suggest to the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) that is going to be a crisis we are going to have to deal with in the next six weeks. I do not think the programs that have been announced are going to deal with that adequately. I suggest we should be putting a fair amount of our dough into job creation, especially in the private sector, and we should provide incentive programs for apprenticeship people to train these people.

In my own community, there are some industries that do a marvellous job in the context of job creation and job training. I look at the apprenticeship and training program that goes on at Dofasco, but unfortunately they are one of the few involved in that. Often they find that after they have invested two or three years in a young man or a young woman, some other employer comes along and scoops up that employee after they have put the time, effort and money into training that person.

12:30 p.m.

I think we are on the verge of a very serious depression—not a recession—in Ontario. Much of it has to do with the way we spend our money and the way we collect our tax money. In the last election campaign, as the Premier was announcing this election and just as we were being wound down in the justice committee while we were getting into the guts of the Astra/Re-Mor fiasco, the Premier indicated he wanted a mandate to keep taxes down. That is what he asked for. He got his promise; he got his wish.

On March 19 he got his majority and two months to the day we had our first budget in this new mandate. What did we get? Higher personal income taxes, an ad valorem gas tax, the biggest tax grab this province has seen in a very long time. That was two months to the day after he got a mandate and part of that mandate was to keep taxes down. I hate to be the bearer of

bad news to people, but I honestly think that when this next budget comes it is going to be even worse.

I look at the priorities we have had here in Ontario over the past 10 years. Last week, the Treasurer's number one civil servant, Mr. Campbell, appeared before the public accounts committee and he berated the federal government for its interventionist politics and interventionism in the economy, as if Ontario were lily white in that regard.

Talk to private land developers who have put their money up at risk in South Cayuga or Townsend, in the small towns in the riding of the member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller). Ask them what effect the Townsend development has had on their community. We pumped \$38 million into that operation and what do we have? The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk certainly knows. We have, what, 43 or 45 homes? That certainly is a disgrace.

I look at the government advertising that is going on, exhorting us to "preserve it and conserve it," at the same time that we have a hydro rate structure that certainly does nothing to encourage conservation in Ontario. That advertising budget, I think, doubled in the last three years. The government spends with reckless abandon to curry public favour at the taxpayers' expense.

It is just inconceivable, in these difficult economic times, that we could not get away from some radio jingle every 10 or 15 minutes on our popular radio stations. That in itself is probably one reason to listen to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. It is absolutely inconceivable that we would be spending that kind of money and pumping all that dough into the Tories' favourite advertising agencies.

Not only do we have Minaki Lodge, as was brought up in the last Parliament, but we also have a road to Minaki and it is absolutely inconceivable that we would put probably \$38 million in total into that development.

The mandate this government got on March 19 did not include, in my view, the purchase or acquisition of a large share of Suncor. I would think any government with honourable intentions would have put that squarely before the public and made that a vital and integral part of its platform, so that the public might judge it on that. I have people in my constituency who have supported the Conservative Party but who feel the government was elected last March on a false perspective.

We see the purchase of a jet, while at the same

time in Ontario people over the age of 18 have to buy their own orthotic or prosthetic devices and that is absolutely disgusting. We come out with some magnanimous program that is going to allow us to have 75 per cent funding for those under the age of 18 who need those devices. I say to members that certainly is magnanimous. It was not long ago in this House that an issue was raised concerning a man in Ottawa who stayed in a hospital waiting for his \$1,500 prosthetic knee and leg device and worked up a bill of \$6,000 in that hospital waiting for that device. I think that is absolutely silly.

As to our debts, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk quite correctly mentioned yesterday, I believe, that we spend in the area of million a day to service our deficit. That includes Ontario Hydro's deficit, for which we are responsible. We spend money on the Urban Transportation Development Corp. and that really is rich. Mr. Campbell, the chief financial officer in Ontario, or Deputy Treasurer as he is called, berated the federal government, maybe even with some sort of appropriateness, about the extent to which it intervenes in the economy and then had the unmitigated gall to want to forget or set aside the example of the UTDC which, simply put, is one of the worst examples of government intervention in our economy.

We are spending \$40 million to \$50 million to assist Toronto Iron Works Co. in a partnership arrangement to build a manufacturing plant, which we never said we would do when this company started off originally, while 950 employees are unemployed in Thunder Bay at Hawker Siddeley, one of Canada's foremost and best-regarded manufacturers of transit equipment.

A headline in the Hamilton Spectator last Saturday night indicated that Westinghouse is on the verge of participating with Bombardier of Boucherville, Quebec, in a \$1-billion transit deal with New York city. This will provide jobs, through the private sector, for employees of Westinghouse and of various small businesses throughout Canada—certainly for Bombardier—without any government involvement, to my knowledge, while the Urban Transportation Development Corp. is tearing across Asia, South America and Europe. I think one could be very well off if he just got the commissions on Kirk Foley's travelling expenses.

We have a difficult time providing the financial resources for prosthetic and orthotic devices, or for conventional transit for our municipalities, but we were prepared to blow \$150 million in the city of Hamilton to run a system which the

mayor of Hamilton quite correctly referred to as going "from nowhere to nowhere." Fortunately, the elected representatives voted 18 to eight to say no to that particular gift horse.

It is inconceivable that we would be putting upwards of \$80 million to \$90 million into a system that, in my view, will not work, while we have 950 people at Hawker Siddeley out of work, or \$40 million to \$50 million into Kingston to develop a government-operated transit manufacturing business. That was never in their original mandate. Their original mandate—if the minister checks Hansard, he will see that it records it very clearly—was to serve as a catalyst with the private sector in Canada. The people at Hawker Siddeley—the union stewards, the people who are out of work, senior management—and the people at Bombardier will say that UTDC is not a catalyst but a menace.

Rather than wasting our money on those particular areas we might take on an aggressive alternative energy plan that would pay us back very quickly and save hundreds of millions of dollars in money that is now committed to oil, fuel and waste—a massive energy conservation program. But this will not be accomplished through some mindless advertising on CFRB and other radio stations that lean somewhat towards the Conservative Party.

We should put large amounts of money into low-interest and low-cost housing. I think the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) spoke quite sincerely about the difficulties people are having in finding decent housing in Ontario and in trying to find accommodation for senior citizens or for people who need nursing home accommodation.

Many of us in our constituency offices find a terrible waiting list. It is very grim in some areas in my community. I visited a nursing home in Hamilton which has a waiting list. The day after the obituary of a nursing home resident is published in Hamilton area newspapers, there is a flood of phone calls from people anxious to find a spot for a friend or relative.

We should be putting more money into community colleges and job training. The member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) took great pleasure in talking about how successful Mohawk College was, at least in a minor way, in his community, and I believe it. But we are facing a layoff of 35 people at Mohawk College this year through budget cuts or through not keeping up with inflation. Those are the harsh facts of reality.

We have a waiting list for our high-technology program, which has a 100 per cent graduate employment rate. We have a lengthy waiting list for that program in our community. We should not need to advertise in Europe to get people to fill high-tech jobs.

We could be getting into a substantial program to assist companies in pollution abatement. The payoff of such a program for our tourist industry—even in the riding of Muskoka—would be very great indeed. In the long term it might cost us a little bit of money, but certainly the payoff would be there.

My friend, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, suggested we should get a budget before us as soon as possible. I am becoming a little cynical about what a budget may hold for the people of Ontario. I think any taxicab driver in the city of Toronto could tell us what to expect from a budget from the government: increased cigarette costs, increased beer taxes, increased liquor taxes, probably increased provincial income taxes and maybe even another way or a more creative way to gouge us on our gas or farm taxes. Anyone could predict what is in store for us.

I will not go on much longer—someone else might want to comment; the Treasurer might want to comment—but I want to say that it is time in this province to re-evaluate our priorities, to look at each and every board, agency and commission that exists in this province and determine whether we really need it, to determine whether we need 29 people in the cabinet

and whether somebody should be paid to pick up the member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton) at the driveway of his farm to drive him at public expense in an expensive limousine to Queen's Park.

Maybe we need to re-evaluate whether we need to have a myriad of government agencies and whether we should be putting money into Minaki Lodge or the Urban Transportation Development Corp. and what else we might do with that money, if only to freeze taxes or to keep taxes down or to give people a tax break.

If we are on the verge of another massive tax increase in Ontario, I want to be the first to say we are on the verge of a property tax revolt because the people in this province do not believe them any more. They certainly do not believe the government. They listened to the Premier talk about a mandate to keep taxes down and then saw their taxes increased in a greater way, in a greater manner than we have ever seen in modern times through the last budget.

I simply hope it does not happen again.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Does any other honourable member wish to participate in this debate? I call upon the Treasurer.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have no comments.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

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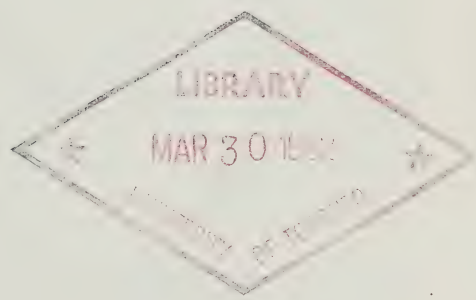


No. 5

Ontario. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Monday, March 15, 1982

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Monday, March 15, 1982

The House met at 2:02 p.m.

Prayers.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, I have a message from the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor signed by his own hand.

Mr. Speaker: John B. Aird, the Lieutenant Governor, transmits supplementary estimates of certain additional sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 31, 1982, and recommends them to the Legislative Assembly, Toronto, March 15, 1982.

HUNGARIAN LIBERTY DAY

Mr. Newman: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the distinct honour of being in the presence of approximately 500 Hungarians and friends of the Hungarians from Windsor and Essex county who were gathered in Mindszenty Hall in Windsor to commemorate the 134th anniversary of a historical event, historical not only to Canadians but also to the free world.

It was 134 years ago that a revolutionary wave of freedom swept over the European continent. On March 15, 1848, Hungarian patriots rose enthusiastically to demand constitutional liberties for their nation. As a result of this bloodless yet successful revolution, Hungary was granted a democratic constitution by King Ferdinand V, King of Hungary and Emperor of Austria.

This happy event filled the whole country with the bright hope of a better future. Unfortunately reactionary forces, committed to destroying all that had been achieved by a long struggle and many sacrifices, regained power in Vienna. The Hungarian people sprang to arms in defence of their newly gained liberties.

After brilliant successes won in heroic battles against the oppressor and under the leadership of Louis Kossuth, a national and world apostle of freedom, the bravery of the Magyar Honved was finally suppressed by the overwhelming numbers of soldiers of the Russian czar. Fearful of eventual repercussions of a Hungarian victory among the enslaved nations of its empire, Russia sent vast armies into Hungary to crush freedom at its very roots.

More than a century has elapsed since then

and many things have changed, but the date March 15 has remained a national day for the Magyars, the day of Hungary's freedom and independence. Today, March 15 has acquired for the Hungarian people a new and sad meaning. Once again, despite all efforts to preserve her freedom and her noble traditions, Hungary continues to be enslaved by the new czars of red Russia. However, where there is life, there is hope. Throughout the free world, Hungarians are looking forward to the day when once again they may be a free and independent nation.

CURLING VICTORY

Mr. Hennessy: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I rise today to express my congratulations, as well as those of my colleagues, those of the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier), who is stuck in Hudson trying to get out, and those of my colleagues on the other side of the House. Naturally, since the minister is stuck, I have the opportunity of presenting this point of privilege and of congratulating the Canadian curling championship team of Thunder Bay.

The victory by Al Hackner, Rick Lang, Bob Nichol and Bruce Kennedy at Brandon yesterday is one that brings honour to all citizens of this province. We in northern Ontario will take special pride in this victory as the team is one of our own. The riding includes the arena where the team is trained, so I feel a personal sense of pride in this victory.

I am sure all members of this House will wish to join me in extending our best wishes to Mr. Hackner and his team as they go to the Silver Broom contest in Germany later this month. They are all great northerners. On behalf of the Minister of Northern Affairs and myself, I wish them the very best on their trip abroad.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, as a native of Thunder Bay may I add my congratulations to the Hackner rink and my wishes for their success when the Brier is held next year in the home of my good friend from Sudbury.

ORAL QUESTIONS

HYDRO EXPORTS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, has anyone

informed the government the break week is next week and not this week?

Mr. Speaker: I think the government House leader (Mr. Wells) made that announcement.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. In November, the minister sent a telex to the chairman of the National Energy Board, expressing a vague environmental concern about the General Public Utilities cable. Despite the NEB's invitation to his ministry to intervene in the proceedings, his officials were conspicuously absent. I want to ask the minister why his officials did not appear before the NEB and who was speaking for the environmental concerns of the people of this province.

2:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, it is correct that I sent a telex at the time to the National Energy Board, exploring with them the extent to which they would be prepared to apply the environmental legislation or the principles embodied therein in Ontario, and there was a response. Over a period of time, we had an exchange which ultimately led to the response that they would invite us if we chose to appear, but my recollection is that they were not willing at that point to make any specific commitment as to the extent they would apply the principles of Ontario legislation.

I think the honourable member is aware that the reason for that exchange of correspondence related to the three independent legal opinions that had been obtained indicating that, as a result of the document primacy, the Ontario legislation did not apply in this instance. The Ministry of Energy was the lead ministry appearing before the National Energy Board. I believe it is indicated in their submission that I made the decision that Ontario's concerns with respect to the environment would be dealt with by my ministry and would be applied through the process of approval which is required prior to any undertaking such as this proceeding. The member may also be aware that approval is required under section 23 of the Ontario Energy Corporation Act. At the appropriate time, Ontario will fully explore, reflect and apply any further environmental restrictions that may be indicated.

Mr. Peterson: The fact is that the minister was invited to intervene and he chose not to intervene. The only submissions from Ontario were from his counterpart in the Ministry of Energy, through a Ms. Marie Rounding, counsel

for the ministry, who said, "The province submits that it is neither necessary nor appropriate for the NEB to attach a condition to the export licence with respect to air emissions."

My question to the minister is, who is speaking for environmental interest here in Ontario? The minister is not, nor is the Minister of Energy.

Hon. Mr. Norton: With respect, I think I already answered that. I indicated my ministry is speaking on behalf of the government of this province. There is no reluctance at all.

I think the Leader of the Opposition has to understand the legal complications of that particular situation. I also suggest that the member look at, I believe it was the formal submission from the Ministry of Energy which indicated Ontario's intention to exercise its responsibility with respect to emissions.

I do not know who the member's ghost writer is, but I acknowledge that the member has now become an environmental writer in this province. I have also read the member's comments on his grand—

Mr. Peterson: I can do a lot better than the minister, I can tell him that.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The member has not seen my work.

Mr. Peterson: No one has, that is the whole point of my question.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The member sees me every day across the House, unless he happens to be absent, and I do not think he has been absent so far.

Mr. Peterson: But the whole point is, where are they?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I have indicated, as has this government, that on the question of environmental protection as it relates to air emissions, Ontario Hydro at this stage, whether or not the undertaking is approved, is bound by a regulation imposed by this government which will require Ontario Hydro to reduce emissions from present levels by 50 per cent by 1990. That is something with which they must comply regardless of whether there are exports.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The regulation does not stipulate the specific technology to be applied—it establishes targets—although the member says it should. That indicates his lack of understanding of—

Mr. Speaker: I suggest the minister address himself to the main question, please.

Hon. Mr. Norton: If the Leader of the Opposition would stop interjecting supplementaries, I would not have to address myself to them.

If Ontario Hydro gets over the three hurdles, which it must do to proceed—the first one is NEB approval and the second is federal cabinet approval—ultimately it will require the approval of this province. I can assure the member and everybody in this province that when the matter comes before us for consideration, whatever steps are necessary will be taken, including a complete review of the existing regulation, to ensure—now listen carefully—that the export is a clean export.

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, if I understand the minister correctly, I hear him saying that when the project gets to the stage of approval by Ontario, if any environmental restrictions are seen to be necessary the minister will see they are imposed. How is he going to determine what additional environmental restrictions or protections are needed? Is he going to submit this project to a full environmental assessment so we publicly know what the problems are, as was promised by his predecessor?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable member ought to get some legal advice—that is not a threat to sue the member, I want to assure him. The point I am trying to make is that, as I understand it, given the doctrine of primacy, if we were to apply our legislation the consequences of that would not be valid and legally binding. But I can assure the member that this government will take into consideration all environmental impacts in arriving at the appropriate kinds of controls that should be applied if Ontario Hydro gets the approvals to proceed.

Mr. Peterson: What the minister is qualifying himself for is a Jimmy Auld talk-alike contest. It appears to me the minister is equivocating on a promise made by the former minister. I refer to Hansard of April 22, 1980, when the former minister was asked about an environmental assessment hearing for the GPU cable, and he said very clearly, "The answer to the latter part of the question is yes."

I want to ask the minister very clearly what his commitment is. Is the minister committing himself here and now to having an environmental assessment hearing on that cable or not, as the third part of the hurdle or whatever he wants to call it? Is he committing himself now to having that hearing?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am sure it is not difficult for the Leader of the Opposition who, in his difficulty in understanding this, is becoming more like a Stuart Smith. He is going to get that award if he keeps this up.

I know for a fact that my predecessor in this ministry, at the time he said that—although, as I subsequently reiterated, in good faith he meant what he said—did not have the benefit of the legal advice that subsequently has been made available from three separate and independent sources. I think that has substantially changed the way in which we can proceed. I can assure the member that export, if it proceeds, will be a clean export. He certainly has my word on that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure all these interjections and observations are important. However, it makes it extremely difficult for me to hear the answers and, I am sure, for other members as well. I ask the co-operation of the House in keeping the number of interjections and observations a bit more quiet.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Treasurer whether he is aware of the very long lineups of people who are seeking work in this province at present. I want to give him some examples. Ninety people applied to Gordon Jewellers at the Fairview Mall in Toronto for a sales position; 50 people applied to Lipton's dress shop for a sales clerk position; 126 people applied for two committee clerk positions here in the Legislature; Loomis messenger service had 200 applications for four positions; Julius Schmid of Canada, production packager, 25 persons applied in four hours; Dicom courier service, driver, 30 applications in four hours; Johnson Controls, inside sales, 10 applicants in four hours.

The Treasurer surely must be aware of these kinds of facts out on the street today in Ontario. When is he going to bring in a new budget to create some jobs in this province?

2:20 p.m.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I believe the first question was, "Was I aware?" Yes, I am, and I am as concerned as the Leader of the Opposition. Secondly, I am not prepared to give him a date for the budget at present.

Mr. Peterson: Is the Treasurer aware that there are only 13,000 reported job vacancies in this province and that there are 373,000 people unemployed at this time? That is a ratio of one

job for every 27 unemployed. If he excludes Metro Toronto, outside of Metro Toronto it is one job for every 47 people who are unemployed. Is he aware of that? Is that the kind of job-creation record he can be proud of? What is he going to do in terms of job creation for this year and right now?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The Leader of the Opposition likes to refer to our job creation record and make fun of it.

Mr. Peterson: There are 7,000 fewer people working right now, which does not help.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am not arguing that. I simply point out that on a relative basis this province has done exceptionally well and, at the same time, it has had a very high growth in the labour force. We also have some very serious problems. We on this side have not tried to pretend that we do not. The member delightfully tries to imply, when we say there are forces other than our own at work, that we are always just blaming Ottawa.

In fact, he knows, and I can document it, how Messrs. Pilkey and Broadbent, a few other Liberals and a few Conservatives have all called upon Mr. MacEachen and said: "Please understand, Mr. MacEachen, facts have changed dramatically since you brought out your budget. Please bring out a new one."

I am hoping he will bring in a new budget. I would suggest that the Leader of the Opposition would be wise to let me wait to make sure he is or is not going to do that, so I can make my policies to fit his budget.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, as the Treasurer and other members of the cabinet have seen fit to float stories about the expense side of the budget—that is, how they are going to raise money in the coming budget ahead of time through Ontario health insurance plan premiums and other mechanisms—will the Treasurer not take us into his confidence enough to let us know in this House how many specific jobs he plans to put into place in the coming year through mechanisms in his budget, which he will bring down some time in April?

Hon. F. S. Miller: First, I would like to refute the implication or the statement in the member's question that I have been saying which taxes I am going to change. I have not been.

Mr. Foulds: You have not denied any of the stories.

Mr. Breithaupt: Everything except pipe tobacco.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Listen, my friend, every year you know what happens. It is the press's job to assess what changes I will make.

Mr. Cooke: How many jobs are you going to create?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question was asked by the member for Port Arthur.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The fact is, that has not been leaked because I have not taken decisions in that particular area yet.

Secondly, I think it is one of the easiest things in the world for the member as a politician or me as a politician to send out numbers and then wait a year to have them challenged or proven wrong. I have not played that way with the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, and I am not going to play that way now. We are going to do our best in this province to create jobs by creating the confidence in government.

Mr. Peterson: The fact is that the Treasurer is not creating jobs. The fact is that we are losing jobs. The fact is that, according to the Ontario Manpower Commission, there is going to be a growth of between 80,000 and 112,000 new entrants into the labour force this year. There are fewer people working now than there were a year ago.

What is the Treasurer going to do to create jobs? Surely that is the problem. Whatever he does, he must not call Ed Broadbent a Liberal. What is he going to do to create jobs right here now in this province?

Hon. F. S. Miller: One of the things this government called upon our federal friends to do with us, and we were backed in this by the United Automobile Workers—

Interjection.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Listen for a change. The member asked me what am I going to do. I am not blaming them; I am asking them. There is a big difference.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We would ask that they recognize, as Stelco did today, that 20 per cent of its output of steel is used by the auto manufacturing industry. Last year the heads of most of Ontario's unions came into the office of the Premier (Mr. Davis) to discuss unemployment as it was then. One after another, chemical workers, rubber manufacturers, steel workers and auto manufacturers, all said, "Improve the sales of cars and you will improve all the jobs around here."

One of the facts we have to get through the heads of our friends in Ottawa is that the automobile industry matters, that it is not simply a passing phase, that it is not simply something in Ontario. Right now, they believe that. Stelco points out in its ads that 20 per cent of its steel goes to the manufacture of cars; therefore, buy Canadian. What we are trying to do to get that done is to require up to 85 per cent Canadian content in vehicles made or sold in Canada so the jobs will be here, and no one single matter will create more jobs than that.

SAFETY OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Has the minister been made aware of the incredible situation at one of the offices of the Ministry of the Attorney General at old city hall where, since January 1980, women working there who have become pregnant have experienced a 52 per cent rate of miscarriages?

In particular, is the minister aware that in room 109 of old city hall there have been 100 per cent miscarriages—four out of four pregnancies—in 1981? All of these women have used video display terminals extensively or have been exposed to them extensively and none of the women involved has had, either previously or since their removal from that work place, a history of difficulty with pregnancies. What steps will his ministry take to ensure safety in that particular work place?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, that is the first I have heard of that circumstance. I will certainly look into it immediately and report back in the House as soon as I possibly can.

Mr. Foulds: Will the minister, first of all, make himself aware of the situation and will he ensure that an independent investigation of the problem will take place in view of the in-house nature of the employer and the indications that his ministry's industrial health and safety branch have conveyed to the union involved, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, that they would not prosecute one of "our own people," at the Attorney General's office?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Again, I am not aware of anything the honourable member is bringing to my attention but, as I said earlier, I will look into it and get back to him immediately with a response.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, given the findings of at least one ophthalmologist dealing with a recent case, which was described in the *Globe* and

Mail only a few days ago, of a person who resigned from the *Globe* and *Mail* because of the danger it was posing for her eyesight and findings which, according to this ophthalmologist, linked her work on the video display terminal to her cornea problems, namely, keratitis, will the minister have an investigation into the safety of video display terminals to determine whether regulations may be necessary for protecting VDT operators?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I understand several investigations have been made over the past number of months in respect to the video display terminals, but I will certainly reopen it and look into the circumstances again, absolutely.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I wish to redirect to the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), if possible. Is that in order?

Mr. Speaker: No, it is not.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I was hoping Mr. Speaker would not remember his ruling.

Mr. Speaker: I do indeed.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: In that case, I will ask the Minister of Labour whether he will perhaps confirm from the Attorney General if it is true that his ministry knew for some time about this incredible cluster of incomplete pregnancies—52 per cent—and yet his administrator, Mr. Avery, turned down the union's proposal for a \$450 preliminary survey by the occupational health clinic in Hamilton to determine whether there was just cause to look into the health and safety situation there.

Will he ask the Attorney General how many deaths it takes to warrant the expenditure of \$450 to see whether there are large problems in that area?

2:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I will certainly confer at the earliest opportunity with the Attorney General.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, in view of the circumstances, I will ask the Attorney General a new question on the same subject.

Is the Attorney General aware that the problems in that particular office in the old city hall at the Attorney General's ministry have reached such a point that the union felt it necessary to formally ask Mr. Jim McNair of the health and safety branch of the Ministry of Labour to take action to investigate the complaints, to issue orders and to prosecute the supervisor?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, this is the first time this issue has come to my attention and therefore I do not have any information as to whether or not any complaint has been made to the ministry. If any complaint has been made, it has not been brought to my attention. I certainly will pursue the matter with the Minister of Labour and advise the House accordingly.

Mr. Foulds: Has the Attorney General not been made aware by the general manager of his ministry, a Mr. Carter, I believe, that the union and that office had discussed a ventilation problem for some three years? It took them three years to try to get it solved and it was only after the union began to apply pressure about the VDTs that the ventilation problem in the coffee room was finally solved last Friday. Is the Attorney General not aware of that? Do people not bring these things to his attention?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I was not aware of it.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware that this serious problem with VDTs was brought to the attention of the Ministry of Government Services by this party more than six months ago, and if the minister is aware, what has he done about it?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Again, Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of the issue.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, if Mr. Avery, the supervisor, refuses to discuss health and safety problems with the union, as he has indicated, and if the ministry refuses to establish voluntary health and safety committees, what happens to the much-vaunted internal responsibility system if there is not a committee?

If the workers are to continue to be used as guinea pigs until they start to die, as is the case here—the former Minister of Labour shakes his head, but in the Ministry of Labour's own manual it states that some workers may experience discomfort or adverse health effects following exposure to agents at or below the established levels—will the minister insist, because there are no committees and there is a refusal to discuss, that all chemicals used in this province have to be pre-market tested before they are put in the work place?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I know Mr. Avery and he is a very responsible and, I think, sensitive administrator. I doubt very much that he would refuse to discuss health and safety matters with the union. But, again, in view of the allegations that have been made, we will be pursuing this matter.

Mr. Speaker: That was the final supplementary. The Minister of Labour has the answer to a previously asked question.

[Later]

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I rise to correct the record, if I might. When I was asking a supplementary to the deputy leader's question to the Attorney General, I mentioned the word "deaths." I meant to say "miscarriages" or "incomplete pregnancies." There was one stillbirth. I did not want to mislead the House in terms of talking about deaths.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. I understood what you meant and did not call you on it.

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORK PLACE

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I have the answer to a question asked on Friday, March 12. The member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) asked about a human rights complaint which has been filed against the Block Drug Company.

At the outset, let me say that I cannot comment on the facts of the case, which is before the Ontario Human Rights Commission. However, I would like to point out that, based on the experience of other jurisdictions, the commission has over the past nine months been introducing a process which is designed to assist in the expeditious handling of complaints.

Under this procedure, when a complaint has been received, the complainant is asked to fill out a questionnaire designed to ascertain the details of the complaint. At the same time, the respondent is sent a copy of the complaint together with a questionnaire designed to allow him to outline his side of the story. Then a fact-finding conference is arranged where the parties sit down with the human rights officer to ascertain in detail the facts giving rise to the complaint and to determine the position of the parties with a view to providing an opportunity for the parties to settle the case.

In the case to which the member referred, the complaint was filed at the end of February and a fact-finding conference had been scheduled for this month. However, it has been rescheduled for April 1 at the request of the complainant. I am therefore unable to explain the suggestion that the case cannot be dealt with in less than a year. From what I have said, I am sure the member will agree that the commission lost no time in acting upon this troubling complaint and I am satisfied that it is being dealt with as quickly as possible.

I would just add one note, if I may. Because of a quick meeting that has been arranged with the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy—the House will be pleased that such a meeting has been arranged—I am going to have to leave the House at this time and will not be available for further questions. I will be in my place tomorrow at the same time.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, the minister has explained to us why it takes a long time to go through the human rights commission. I understand there are procedures that have to be gone through, although it may also be due to shortage of staff to carry out all the procedures quickly. In the meantime, will the minister not intervene personally to obtain voluntary compliance from the Block Drug Company to remove the requirement that women punch time clocks when they go to the washroom facilities when the men are not required to do so? Will he intervene with the company and see if they will undertake to remove that discrimination against women?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, perhaps an examination of Hansard for Friday will prove otherwise, but I felt I had given assurance on Friday of that action.

URBAN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. I have read with interest the recent announcement of Ontario's \$9-million commitment to a company called VentureTrans Manufacturing Inc., which will manufacture rapid transit vehicles. How can the minister justify the expenditure of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money to involve himself in the manufacture of what many would regard as questionable technology when 950 people are out of work at Hawker Siddeley in Thunder Bay, an area that manufactures the same kind of technology?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I have no problem whatsoever in substantiating that investment in the development and production of the technology that the Urban Transportation Development Corp. has developed so well over the past five years and is now proceeding to implement on a number of contracts. We went into this matter very thoroughly, as will be recalled, in the last session of the Legislature when this matter was discussed very fully.

UTDC and its board of directors and senior management looked at a number of proposals

for manufacturing the vehicles. The decision was made that the car bodies should be manufactured and the vehicles should be assembled at the transportation development centre in Kingston. A joint venture contract was entered into between UTDC and TIW and the construction of that manufacturing facility is now under way in Kingston.

Mr. Cunningham: The original mandate of this crown corporation was to act as a catalyst for private sector transit development corporations and it never envisaged that the government would get into manufacturing. Can the minister confirm now that they are testing rotary motor vehicles at the test track in Kingston? If so, what distinguishes that technology from that of Hawker Siddeley in Thunder Bay and Bombardier in Quebec, save that they are successful in the open market system?

Hon. Mr. Snow: A great many things separate the technology that UTDC has developed from the products that the other companies have developed. Let us look at Hawker Siddeley and the technology it has developed. I do not know what particular technology the member is speaking of—probably the double-decker GO cars which were developed by Hawker Siddeley in conjunction with this government. The only contracts Hawker Siddeley has had for those cars are the two contracts it has had with this government. That car would never have been developed if it had not been engineered and developed in conjunction with GO Transit.

2:40 p.m.

We can then look at the contract Hawker Siddeley had for the 190 streetcars. Hawker Siddeley constructed those streetcars for the Toronto Transit Commission by using technology developed by this government through UTDC. When one speaks about Bombardier, it is a very good company. They developed the new light, rapid, comfortable train. They have had their problems with that. As the member knows, although it was supposed to go into service several months ago, it is still going through testing and is still not in service. Other companies also go through a testing process with their equipment.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us when he will be bringing before the House the amounts of money that the government, through its agency UTDC, will be putting into the joint venture that the government is undertaking with TIW?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I do not know exactly what the member is referring to. UTDC has a contract with the Vancouver Urban Transit Authority for the implementation of a system in Vancouver. They have a contract with the TTC for facilities in the borough of Scarborough. They are on the verge of finalizing the contract in the city of Detroit. The funds that will be earned by UTDC and by Metro Canada in the implementation of those contracts will go to pay the expenses of constructing the facility and the vehicles at Kingston.

RENT CONTROL

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations in his capacity as the supervisor of the rent review program. Can the minister inform the House what position he takes on the recent phenomenon of certain rent review commissioners allowing the cost of new financing of buildings to be passed through to tenants when the purpose of that financing is to transfer equity out of the building?

Specifically, is he concerned about the situation of a 210-unit apartment building on Bathurst Street where the owner admitted he placed a \$600,000 second mortgage solely for the purpose of financing another business venture, or one of 33 units at 534 Birchmount Road in which a \$350,000 mortgage was placed on a building originally purchased for \$200,000? What position does he take on those kinds of decisions where that kind of cost is passed on to tenants?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I think the member should look into what the real situation is with respect to the buildings he referred to. Regarding the Bathurst Street building, the decision from the Residential Tenancy Commission has not yet been made. The Birchmount Road building is under appeal. In the Markham Road one, it was not appealed by the tenants; the landlord appealed it.

The fact of the matter is the commission and the commissioner who is hearing the case do indeed look into the nature of the financing to make sure it is carefully scrutinized and is reasonable. If it is to be passed through and the amount would be excessive, they can use their discretion to vary the amount and spread it out over a period of time. I would think the member would know that and would know it is a difficult task for the commissioners. They endeavour to fulfil their jobs very faithfully.

Mr. Philip: Since it is under appeal and the decision was made to pass through those costs, can the minister explain how a commissioner of rent review could violate his own rent review guideline RR2, passed October 22, 1979, which states, "Rent should not be increased because of financing costs incurred by mortgaging the residential complex to obtain funds for use elsewhere"? Surely that is fairly clear. How can his rent review officers possibly interpret it any differently? How did we end up with those kinds of decisions where tenants have to appeal a decision that is clearly in violation of the rent review guidelines?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: The member has spoken quite appropriately. It is indeed a guideline policy of the commission that any financing arrangements must be used either to improve the property or to purchase a property. If they are used for other purposes, then the commission by its own guidelines does not pass that through, and he knows that.

If he is talking about financing that took place before the rent review act came into law on January 1, 1976, then that is true. The commissioners cannot and would not look into financing arrangements prior to that time. But that is nothing new and that has not changed.

Mr. Mancini: In order that this matter may be clarified, so the minister knows exactly what his rent review officers are doing and in order that the general public feels protected, why does the minister not just issue a memorandum to all the rent review officers informing them they cannot pass through these types of costs and that they should not be putting these types of costs on to the renters? Furthermore, why does the minister not tell them he will not tolerate such decisions by rent review officers?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, if the member will put in writing the complaint he is talking about, I shall be glad to look into it. But if he is wrong, he should stand up in this House and apologize to what I feel is a very able group of commissioners.

Mr. Mancini: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: We are not talking about specific instances here that we are able to find and bring to the minister's attention. We want all renters in Ontario to be protected by a general policy guideline. We do not want specific instances brought to the minister's attention; we want fair rules for all.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: If I may reply, Mr. Speaker—

The Deputy Speaker: No, no, Mr. Minister, I do not think so.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, it demands a response; it really does. I have already said such a guideline is in place. If it is not being followed, I challenge him to tell me where it is not, and if he is wrong he is to apologize.

The Deputy Speaker: A new question from the member for Carleton in the rotation.

Ms. Copps: On a point of order: I understood the Speaker to rise from his chair and say "No, no," when the minister stood up to respond to that question. Is Mr. Speaker running this House or is the minister running this House?

Mr. Philip: On the point of order: If the honourable critic for the Liberal Party did not give the minister specific examples, I did.

TOXIC WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr. Mitchell: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. The minister will be aware that in late January or early February I contacted his office about a so-called secret study that was being carried out in the Ottawa-Carleton region with respect to a toxic waste transfer station. He will recall at that time, after promising me to look through the ministry, which he did, it was not an involvement of the provincial ministry at all. In fact, we could not point a finger at who was carrying out this study.

The Deputy Speaker: The question is?

Mr. Mitchell: I feel I must elaborate, Mr. Speaker, if you will allow me, because—
Interjections.

Mr. Mitchell: Shout all you like, but I am going to get it done. The fact of the matter was—and I can out-yell them—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. We are asking for a question. I think the member for Carleton has elaborated sufficiently.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, at your request, here are two questions to the Minister of the Environment. Has he received the text of the report the federal works department promised in two press releases it issued? Will he have a further examination to see whether or not there is any way his ministry or the Environmental Assessment Board will carry out a review of this proposed site, to which the cities of Nepean and Kanata are both opposed?

Mr. Bradley: Yes or no?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Would you not prefer that it be both?

Mr. Epp: You have the answer right there. Why don't you read it?

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, I have not, actually. This is an entirely different matter.

2:50 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker: Carry on with the answer.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the member will allow me the peace of the House for a few moments, I will respond.

The site in the Ottawa area is being sought by the federal government for a transfer station on federal property. I have been advised by the legal staff of my ministry that we do not have jurisdiction within the province.

That is supported by the decision of the Ontario Court of Appeal at the present time in the Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. case in which we sought to assert jurisdiction over Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. through the courts and have been denied that jurisdiction. That case may well be going to the Supreme Court of Canada to sort out once and for all whether or not we do have such jurisdiction. But as long as that case stands, my advice is that we do not have jurisdiction in this instance either.

With respect to receiving a copy of the report, to date I myself have not received a copy of such a report. There was to be a meeting towards the end of last week between staff of my ministry at the regional level and some representatives of the federal government to brief my staff on the nature of the project they were undertaking and the purpose of it. I cannot say with certainty that no report or copy was presented to them at that meeting. If it was, I have not yet been advised of it and I certainly have not seen it.

In brief, the answer is that I believe we do not have jurisdiction, although there are now some indications the federal government may be willing to share some information with us. The only way in which we could exercise any jurisdiction, as I understand it, is if we were invited by the federal government or if they expressed a desire to have their project subjected to our Environmental Assessment Act.

Mr. Mitchell: In both releases issued by the federal Department of Public Works they stated that the reported background information on the project will be made available to all interested members of the public with consultation. In talking to the staff of the ministry I am led to believe the minister has had to ask the federal government for that report. First, I would like to confirm if that is true. Second, since the offer is implicit in the comments they made, I would hope the ministry would reply affirmatively that they will carry out whatever portion of that participation is available to them.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It is my understanding that we have been advised that copies of the report are available upon request and we have requested

it. I just had a note passed to me that we have now received a copy in the ministry. I am not sure whether it arrived today or on Friday.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, if the minister expects us to think his ministry or himself has a certain amount of credibility, how does he justify in this case showing concern for the question from the member for Carleton? I can understand the member's concern about the location of this transfer station without proper consultation. How does that jibe with the minister's approach where he was prepared to establish a disposal site in Haldimand-Norfolk without consultation, discussion or a public hearing? What kind of hypocritical and cynical politics is he trying to play on this? Why does not admit he only shows concern when he has no jurisdiction?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am sure the legislation which was passed through this House must have been passed on one of the two or three days a week when the honourable member was not present.

Mr. Roy: Show some credibility.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It must have been on one of those days when he was appearing in provincial court, criminal division, in Ottawa—

The Deputy Speaker: Replying to the question.

Hon. Mr. Norton: —rather than discharging his responsibilities in this Legislature.

Mr. Roy: At least I practise law. I earn a living—

Hon. Mr. Norton: I would take the member on in court any day.

Mr. Roy: They would kick you out of provincial court.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Are you going to reply to the question now?

Hon. Mr. Norton: In the instance with respect to South Cayuga cited by the member, we had put in place a procedure that provided for public hearings and for a full and complete investigation of the environmental safety of the proposed site. That legislation was passed by this Legislature. If the member has any doubts about that, he ought to consult with some of the people in South Cayuga because my impression, in speaking with the honourable member who represents that riding, is that he feels it worked very well. In fact, the site, for very sound reasons, was rejected.

Mr. Roy: That was because of public pressure.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It had nothing to do with public pressure, it had to do with a very thorough investigation of the site, which revealed there were some geological inadequacies in the site. That was why the site was rejected. But we do have a very good process in place, contrary to situation that appears in Ottawa.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have seen the minister give warmer answers to members from this party than to those in his own party. I would like to ask him if he will recognize the frustration of people in the Ottawa area in dealing singlehandedly with the federal Liberal government. Under the circumstances will the minister go to Ottawa, meet with citizens in Kanata and Nepean, find out what the concerns are, since he has not found those already, and make representations with them to the federal government because of the concern the people in the Ottawa area have over the location of this toxic waste dump?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, the first step in any procedure is to await the opportunity to be fully brought up to date by the staff in the region who have been involved in the consultation and discussions with the federal government as recently as the end of last week and who have also been dealing with the concerns and inquiries of the citizens of that area.

I realize that the member's approach may at times be more of a grandstanding approach than mine. I tend to want to know first precisely what the situation is before I jump in with all fours and assume to assert jurisdiction where I have none as a representative of this government.

FUNDING FOR EDUCATION

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. We all welcome her back from Bahrain on this the 100th day of March and wish her the very best of health.

There has been a strong rumour circulating in education circles that the Minister of Education has plans to make drastic cuts or to completely eliminate the funding for noncredit courses in the continuing-education program of secondary schools. Will the minister assure the House this afternoon that her ministry has no plans for making cuts in those specific grants and that we can expect the same level of funding in the upcoming school year?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot give that assurance as it seems to me it must be the responsibility of the minister to

ensure that the funds which are delivered for continuing education are serving the purpose of providing continuing education.

The definition of continuing education is a matter with which we have been concerned for the past year and a half, as the honourable member knows. It is a matter which has had a great deal of public input and a matter which we are seriously considering now.

I cannot suggest to the honourable member in all honesty that we are considering making no changes at all. I do not know precisely what we will be doing, but we certainly are considering it.

Mr. Bradley: Is the minister aware that by denying the same level of funding that has existed in the past to these programs she would be interfering to a certain extent with some excellent programs that have been available to the multicultural groups in this province? I know the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Mr. McCaffrey) would be interested in this—in providing funds, for instance, for their dance and choral groups and their bands. This has been funnelled through the continuing education grant.

In view of the fact that her government is very concerned about promoting multiculturalism in this province, will the minister assure the House that there will be adequate funding so these programs which enrich us culturally will be able to continue?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There is no doubt about the fact that the Ministry of Education has taken the lead role in this country in terms of cultural enrichment and the maintenance of heritage. In fact, the point I was trying to make earlier clearly indicates the kind of direction we must consider.

As the ministry responsible for education, I believe we do have the responsibility to ensure that the funds which are delivered by the ministry are used for educative purposes. I have already had preliminary discussions with my colleague the Minister of Culture and Citizenship about routes we might follow to ensure that programs which are not educational in character but which have been provided by school boards through some kind of illusory mechanism may continue in support of the heritage of the groups that make up the richness of our heritage in Canada.

3 p.m.

Mr. Bradley: During discussion of the bill on special education there was a good deal of discussion—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Is this a supplementary?

Mr. Bradley: Yes. If my memory serves me correctly, the minister indicated to the House that money would not be taken from other areas of education and placed in special education, but that new money would be provided for special education. However, during discussion of the bill on special education there was a good deal of talk about the possibility of the ministry's taking money from other areas in education to apply to special education. In the light of the answer the minister has given this afternoon, can she assure the House that this has not been the case?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is most assuredly not the case. The funding for special education was clearly defined by the ministry and by government when the bill was introduced. It has not been changed. It has been enhanced a little bit, but the funds have not come from any source other than the additional funds that were made available by government.

HOME HEATING COSTS

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. As a minister who has frequently professed concern about a great many things, is he concerned about the recent dramatic and unreasonable increases in residential gas rates which have been approved by the Ontario Energy Board? Does he know that the annual home heating bill in the area served by Consumers' Gas, based on the new rates, will go from last year's cost of \$657 to \$870 this year, an increase of 32 per cent? Indeed, because of the cold winter we have had, the cost will be more than \$900 this year, which means a 37 per cent increase over last year.

Will the minister therefore petition the Lieutenant Governor in Council, as he has the power to do under section 33 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, to roll back or put a stay on the February increase for at least two months to stop this unreasonable price hike?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to introduce amendments to the Ontario Energy Board Act, but I wonder whether the member might redirect that question to the Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch).

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I am not interested in redirecting that question to the Minister of Energy. This is a question of consumer prices. If the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations is not interested in answering it, as may well be the case, I wish to put a supplementary to him. Perhaps he can answer both at the same time.

If the minister is concerned about consumers, I ask him to note that Consumers' Gas—and this is true of the gas companies generally—has been permitted markups of 65 per cent above the wholesale gas cost and federal taxes, which, of course, were all passed through to the consumers, and that this new markup is four times the amount ever previously awarded. Also, the minister may not be aware that Consumers' Gas operating income last year went up by almost 19 per cent, to \$107 million, and that the new markups will give them an additional \$77 million.

Recognizing the serious economic situation in which so many people and companies find themselves, does the minister think it is fair that the distributing monopolies are guaranteed these escalating profits by his government agency? Why should they not have to tighten their belts just like everyone else is having to do?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I was tempted to ask the member to repeat his question, but I am a little hesitant to do so. I will advise the Minister of Energy of the nature and content of the member's question. I am sure he will be pleased to respond.

MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENTS

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Revenue about property tax assessment in the city of Toronto. The minister is no doubt aware that some homes in Toronto have received increases in their assessments exceeding 300 per cent. Will the minister have the candour to confirm that provincial assessors have deviated from the usual administrative procedures in reassessing renovated homes in the city of Toronto? In other cities, the assessors used the assessment manual in connection with renovation, employing the criterion of historical value.

Does the minister deny he is using the reassessments on renovated homes to introduce market-value-based assessment by the back door?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I deny that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Ruprecht: The evidence mounts daily

that the reassessments were done in a slipshod manner, incompletely and inadequately. Now the minister has tried to terrorize the citizens of Toronto, especially the home owners, by unleashing a regiment of more than 110 assessors from all over this province.

Why does the minister not sit down with a city of Toronto representative and work out a plan that is acceptable and not create chaos and total confusion in this city as far as the home owners are concerned? Why is he not putting the money where his mouth is instead of placing in jeopardy the homes of those who own homes in this city?

The citizens out there, and I want to make this quite clear, understand only one thing. When their property taxes increase, they blame the minister and they blame the politicians. We on this side are not responsible, the minister is responsible and he should give us an answer as to why he is introducing this kind of plan which nobody understands.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: We have always known that many of the members opposite are not responsible, but we have institutions for situations like that. In actual fact, of course, it is a matter of perception.

I know the honourable member who generated the question perhaps does not understand what is going on but if he wants to have a course in assessment, whether vis-à-vis Toronto or elsewhere, I will be very happy to set up a briefing for him and provide him with some insight into the program, which has been successfully implemented in 349 municipalities across the province.

I will also entertain for him a presentation that would show him that what has just happened in the city of Toronto also happened to something like 135,000 properties right across the province. I will be happy, and I make this offer very public, to set up a program to educate the questioner at his convenience.

Mr. Breugh: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister whether he would consider a moratorium on these reassessments at least until such time as he does two or three simple things: first, get some guidelines which are actually used during the course of these reassessments so that people get some reasonable notice about a reassessment process; second, get out some public information programs to explain to them that there is an appeal process and to make that somewhat simpler.

Finally, why does not the minister respond in a more positive way to requests from municipal-

ities like Metropolitan Toronto when the municipality itself feels the reassessment program is unfair and wrong?

Why does the minister not do those simple things?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, it is regrettable that the honourable member really has not followed in the press and other media, in the way of paid ads and inserts with the assessment notices, the kind of communications program that has been undertaken by this ministry not only this year but also in the past. Again, this is nothing new.

I think the appeal process is very clear. It is not even a matter of any different form that comes in the assessment envelope. Again, we are always looking for and taking advice and guidance from those within the field to make the communications program better, to make the assessment notice better, and we hope something will come forward with that.

As far as the member's misconception of what has been coming forth from Metropolitan Toronto is concerned, I would suggest that he should look properly at the record. He would see that Metropolitan Toronto per se is in support of the program we are doing and has made a request for a section 86 impact study. I think his references have been to the city of Toronto and not to Metropolitan Toronto.

3:10 p.m.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, under the rules of the standing orders, I am dissatisfied with the answer of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. We will debate this tomorrow night at 10:30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: I would direct the member for Welland-Thorold to notify the table in the proper manner.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

CITY OF TORONTO ACT

Ms. Fish, seconded by Mr. Robinson, moved first reading of Bill Pr3, An Act respecting the City of Toronto.

Motion agreed to.

JAPANESE CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE OF TORONTO ACT

Mr. Cousens, seconded by Ms. Fish, moved first reading of Bill Pr18, An Act respecting the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre of Toronto.

Motion agreed to.

CITY OF HAMILTON ACT

Mr. Charlton, seconded by Mr. Samis, moved first reading of Bill Pr5, An Act respecting the City of Hamilton.

Motion agreed to.

BEER IN THE BALL PARK ACT

Mr. Samis, seconded by Mr. Di Santo, moved first reading of Bill 22, An Act respecting the Sale of Beer at the Canadian National Exhibition Stadium.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to provide relief for the long-suffering Blue Jays fans who patronize CNE stadium. May I say I resisted pressure from my cosmopolitan friends to include cerveza in the bill—excuse me, vino, not cerveza.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE ACT

Mr. Swart moved, seconded by Ms. Bryden, first reading of Bill 23, An Act to provide for a Public Advocate in Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to provide for a public advocate in Ontario. The function of the public advocate is to represent the public interest in Ontario at rate hearings before tribunals and commissions on such matters as natural gas, telephone and electricity rates.

The public advocate is also provided with the authority to intervene in hearings at which environmental matters of a broad general interest are considered.

The public advocate would be a servant of this assembly, and levies may be made against corporations that make application for a rate increase for the purpose of paying the expenses incurred by the public advocate in carrying out his functions and duties.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Consideration of the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Mr. Harris, that an humble address be presented to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To the Honourable John Black Aird, an officer of the Order of Canada, one of Her

Majesty's counsel learned in the law, Bachelor of Arts, Doctor of Laws, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, it is an honour for me to stand before you, my Premier, my colleagues on this side and members opposite to move the adoption of the speech from the throne.

As I begin, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson), to wish him well and to wish him longevity as leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition. I would also like to congratulate Mr. Rae on his election as leader of the New Democrats.

3:20 p.m.

I am proud to speak on behalf of this document, which recognizes the needs of our province and the realities we face in a country whose national leadership is questionable. It is also a document that rededicates this government to its commitments to the people of Ontario.

A year ago, this government, with a renewed mandate, dedicated itself to work for a stronger Ontario, to work for a stronger manufacturing base, to work for responsible development of our resources, to work for healthier communities and to work for more opportunities for our people to better themselves.

We dedicated ourselves to achieving a stronger Ontario through the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development. We dedicated ourselves to work with communities, with industry, with labour, with groups and with individuals to ensure social and economic freedom in our province.

By Christmas 1981, more than 50 of the original 76 development initiatives outlined in BILD had been reviewed, discussed and approved. We had begun the work of redevelopment for the 1980s, but, as this work was beginning to take effect, new challenges were rising up, challenges that have caused all of us, whether in government, in business or in the home, to reconsider short-term priorities.

Although our country has weathered the storm raised by the constitution debate, we are now facing a crisis of greater proportion which strikes at the very heart of Canadian federalism.

Our nation's economy is being twisted and wrung by ill-conceived and poorly administered federal programs. The potential of our people—our entrepreneurs, our farmers, our young people looking for their first home—is being crushed beneath the weight of bloated interest rates and insensitive national economic planning.

Members on this side of the Legislature have already spoken about interest rates. I had the pleasure of participating in the debate on interest rates which took place in the Legislature last fall. My views were clear then, and they are clear now. It is my belief that interest rates in Canada can be reduced. It is my belief we are strong enough to follow an independent course rather than playing the part of the monkey dancing to the American barrel organ.

My views are strengthened by the daily visits, letters and telephone conversations I have with my constituents in the riding of Scarborough-Ellesmere. Their stories tell the tale of misguided federal economic planning. Their lives bear the burden of the economic mistakes of others.

Members opposite—and we hear them chirping now—may say it is easy to blame Ottawa. I say to them that members on this side of the Legislature are just as fast to praise Ottawa when it deserves it as they are to criticize it when it is wrong; and on the issue of interest rates the federal government is wrong.

Members opposite have called for Ontario to take action against high interest rates. They call on the province to provide support for home owners, businessmen and farmers so they can achieve their goals and help to make our communities work again. That kind of action would be easier in a situation where we had ample revenues, but such is not the case in Ontario at this time.

It is not the case because this province stands under a threat, as do the other provinces of our nation; it is a threat that contradicts 30 years of harmonious co-operation between Ottawa and the provinces, a threat that strikes at the spirit of agreements signed by this province with prime ministers Louis St. Laurent, John Diefenbaker and Lester Pearson. The threat we are faced with is a drastic reduction in established programs financing from Ottawa.

The federal government claims its cost-sharing agreements with the provinces are only increasing the national deficit. It has even produced statistics to back up this claim. But, as

the farmer said as he looked over his bill from the general store, "Figures don't lie, but liars do figure."

The Economic Council of Canada says federal revenues are down because of federal tax policies and not because of the federal-provincial fiscal arrangements. Indeed, as was pointed out in the 1981 Ontario budget paper *Renegotiation of Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements: An Ontario Perspective*, increases in federal-provincial transfers fell short of federal spending growth over the period 1971-72 to 1976-77.

During the period since the established programs financing began in 1976, we have seen a 51 per cent growth in federal transfers, compared with a 55 per cent growth in overall federal spending. Yet despite proof that federal-provincial cost-sharing is not a drain on Ottawa's resources, Finance Minister MacEachen is determined to reduce established programs financing. MacEachen's cuts are equivalent to the operating budgets of four outstanding Ontario universities: Ottawa, Carleton, Queen's and Western Ontario. These institutions have a combined enrolment of 59,000 students.

In health care, Mr. MacEachen's cuts are equally offensive. For example, two thirds of these cuts would close down the 10 hospitals operating in the Ottawa area; 3,400 beds would be wiped out with the scratch of a pen, and that is the effect of only two thirds of MacEachen's cuts.

This is the threat that this government, and other administrations in provincial legislatures across Canada, are facing.

As a family man, I have a genuine concern, as do others in this House, with the future that my children will have to face. I would rather spend my time here working for their benefit than attacking the policies of another jurisdiction. But no matter how one views the situation, Ottawa's policies are hampering the initiative and confidence of men and women across our province.

Calls from my constituency continually inform me of the tragedy resulting from high interest rates and the restrictive effects of Ottawa's economic policies: men, women and young people without jobs; families pitched from their homes because of hikes in mortgage rates; businessmen and retailers struggling just to stay afloat.

This government wants to take action, but we cannot always act alone. In many fields we need the co-operation of the federal government, but their response is to propose reductions in essential programs.

If that sounds modestly bitter, it is because I know that this government and this House are being prevented from achieving the potential that is well within Ontario's ability. We have the programs, we have the will and we have the initiative.

In the throne speech, we have shown what we will do in this present period of uncertainty. We will work to the best of our ability to combat high interest rates, high inflation and high unemployment. But more can be done. Through the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, we are working to strengthen our framework of industries, communities, power generation and distribution, social welfare and education.

As the Lieutenant Governor stated in the speech, we shall continue to pursue a pro-growth, pro-investment, pro-Canadian economic policy. But to do so we need real negotiations with Ottawa on established programs financing; we need real discussion on interest rates; we need co-operation, not meetings that are little more than media events for federal ministers to deliver ultimatums from prepared texts.

What we need is for Confederation to work, not to become a battleground between warring governments and skirmishing superegos.

I am proud that this throne speech has demonstrated that the government of Ontario is willing to do its part and is willing to remind Ottawa of its failure to do the same.

Moving into more specific areas of the throne speech, I am particularly honoured that legislation is planned to require mandatory car restraints for children under five years of age.

On October 15, 1981, I introduced a resolution in this House that the government take steps to amend the Highway Traffic Act so that protection under the act will be extended to children under the age of five years or weighing less than 50 pounds. We had an excellent debate in which members of each party spoke in support of that resolution.

I do not understand the actions of the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) last week to file a duplicate bill on the Order Paper when the legislation is well on its way. I can only presume that it is some sort of personal publicity stunt.

Ms. Bryden: There is no duplicate. There is no legislation over there.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Robinson: Since last fall, a lot of ground has been covered. The Ministry of Transporta-

tion and Communications has worked diligently to identify optimal methods of implementing this important legislation.

Since the seminar which I chaired for all members of the Ontario Legislature prior to the introduction of the resolution last October, I have continued to promote public awareness and motivation on this important issue through public seminars and through the news media. All of these efforts have been met with favourable public reaction, I am pleased to report.

The need for legislation is very real. There are many sobering facts to consider. Doctors will tell you that the single greatest threat to a child's health is a ride in the family car. In the past five years more than 5,000 youngsters have been injured and 52 have died in traffic accidents in Ontario. Forty-five of these deaths involved children two years of age or younger. In 1980, 1,697 children under five years of age were injured and 18 died in automobile collisions. Today, for every child who dies from an infectious disease in North America, 50 die as passengers in car accidents.

Worse, the most dangerous place for a child in an automobile is in the arms of its parent. Even if a parent is securely belted, in a 25-mile-per-hour accident, any infant or child will be torn from the parent's arms by the force of the collision. By virtue of the particular physique of young children, they are launched as projectiles which travel head first.

3:30 p.m.

Considering the laws of physics, the unrestrained parent in this same scenario of a 25-mile-per-hour collision becomes a 4,000-pound mass, crushing the child against the dashboard and through the windshield. The force with which the child hits the dashboard is equivalent to dropping that child from the third storey of a building.

Unfortunately, voluntary guidelines in this area are not effective enough. A public education program such as the one now under way can do a great deal to motivate parents to accept and use child and infant restraint devices, but it does not result in a significant behavioural change in the society as a whole.

Recent studies at McMaster University show that only 14 per cent of children under the age of five are now being properly restrained when in vehicles. The study also indicates that for children in this age group, birth to five years, the frequency and consistency of the use of the device decline markedly as the child gets older.

Unrestrained children have caused accidents

by interfering with the driver or the vehicle controls. A significant number of fatalities or medical and dental injuries also occur in noncrash situations involving swerves or sudden stops. Children fall out of stationary or moving vehicles through doors or windows that they or someone else have opened. All of these incidents can be prevented through the proper use of child restraint devices.

Infants and young children are not yet of an age to be allowed to make the decision as to whether or not they should use these devices. We, as parents, override the decision of our infants and young children daily on many matters affecting their safety. I feel strongly this is both a parental and a legislative responsibility which extends to the issue of auto travel. There is an overwhelming amount of health and safety evidence that shows restraints are essential.

A small number of foreign jurisdictions have adopted child restraint legislation with varying degrees of success. Ontario is now in the enviable position of strength to further expand its leadership role in this forum by developing and effectively implementing legislation to safeguard the lives of our infants and young children. While legislation of this concept has been approved in principle in this House, equitable and effective implementation of this concept demands and has been receiving extremely detailed study.

Considering the issue of supply and demand, by adopting the phasing-in approach defined by age group, marketplace availability of child restraint devices can be assured. There are at present some 600,000 children under the age of five in Ontario. The cost of a child restraint device is about the same as a tire—and people have no difficulty in buying tires or two tanks of gasoline—or, dealing with the child himself, about the equivalent price of a pair of shoes.

Budgetary constraints and considerations of all families with young children must also be respected, particularly in those families with more than one child under the age of five. Outstanding initiative has been demonstrated as rental programs have been established by community service groups across Ontario. Those groups include the Jaycees and the Jaycettes, among others. Also, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications has actively involved the participation of enforcement agencies in developing legislation that can be effectively implemented.

The experiences and varying degrees of success in other jurisdictions place Ontario in a

strong leadership position to introduce legislation that will measure up to the current state of the art and availability of child restraint devices. This Legislature will be able to take great satisfaction in the swift passage of the proposed amendments to the Highway Traffic Act to prevent suffering related to this preventable injury and death, so that we may effectively protect our young children who are our most valuable resource.

Since coming to Queen's Park a year ago, I have also studied with interest developments in public transit. In the last decade this government has provided strong leadership in the evolution of advanced public transit technology. We should consider ourselves in this province to be very fortunate that the government had the foresight to recognize the importance of our public transit needs. This government's commitment to public transit, which was reiterated in the speech from the throne, goes at least as far back as November 1972 when the Premier (Mr. Davis) presented An Urban Transportation Policy for Ontario.

That policy centred on the idea of what urban life should be and what the characteristics of an ideal city would be. First it said, "the city should be a place that is rich in the variety of employment, housing and leisure opportunities it provides. Second, the city should be a place of safety, health and comfort. Third, the city should be a place in which it is possible to move quickly and with safety and convenience from one location to the other." It continued by stating, "Without easy circulation of traffic, it would be difficult for the wide spectrum of people that makes up a city to enjoy the fullness and variety we seek."

It was realized then that our cities soon could be facing the same problems that our southern neighbours were experiencing. Overcrowding, congestion and stress were seen as factors contributing to the decay of the downtown cores of many cities on this continent. In those days, rush-hour traffic jams and air and noise pollution were the major reasons for encouraging mass public transit.

Expressways were not a solution. They disrupted neighbourhoods, and their construction within city boundaries had become prohibitively expensive. By November 1972 construction on the Spadina Expressway had been stopped, and this action was soon paralleled in other cities around the world. But by that time, subway construction had also become extremely expensive, costing as much as \$25 million to \$30

million per mile—and that was 10 years ago. Today subways will cost anywhere from \$80 million to \$100 million per mile, compared to the \$25-million to \$30-million range that Ontario's new transportation technology can offer.

That technology has required years to develop, much of it in the face of shortsighted political criticism that has not borne the test of time. Two years ago the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Cunningham) told members of this House that our technology was not yet developed and that the competition in the marketplace was greater than our ability to meet it. It is that lack of faith in the ability of Ontario enterprise that has provided the real obstacles to progress. But this government and its Premier had the faith and foresight to create what is now the Urban Transportation Development Corp. Even in the days before the last Middle East war drove up oil prices, the government of Ontario saw the value of innovative transportation technology. Much of Ontario's future industrial and economic development will have to be in the area of high technology. Technological advances and the resulting economic benefits are essential to the wellbeing of our people, and UTDC's contribution in this field can be significant.

The ability of UTDC to provide not just for the needs of Ontario cities but for those of other provinces and nations as well is a tribute to those who created it and made it work. The list of UTDC successes is also the best response to those who sought to deride the work and impact of UTDC. Last year UTDC had sales exceeding \$57 million and net earnings of more than \$2.5 million. In addition, last November UTDC Ltd. made its first royalty payment to the government of Ontario in the amount of \$450,000. I am confident that this situation will continue to improve in the coming years.

UTDC's main stake in our future is undeniably the intermediate capacity transit system, called ICTS. I am proud to point out that the world's first public transit ICTS line will run for almost its entire length through my great riding of Scarborough-Ellesmere. The line is scheduled—and the schedule is being maintained—to open late in 1984. I hope that those who have doubted the ability of UTDC to perfect and market the ICTS idea will use that occasion, if not sooner, to admit their error.

The throne speech reconfirmed this government's intention to build on the continuing success of the Urban Transportation Development Corp. As ICTS transportation technology

is used in Ontario and Canada, it will become easier to pursue initiatives in Europe, Asia and South America.

There can be a bright future for ICTS in many parts of the world. As many members of this House already know, ICTS has been accepted in Detroit, Scarborough and Vancouver. ICTS was also judged in December 1980 by the Los Angeles Downtown People Mover Authority to be first in technical performance, in financial content and in its adherence to minority business requirements. Although the ICTS proposal received all the necessary approval, the project fell victim to federal transit funding cutbacks imposed by the Reagan administration.

3:40 p.m.

The prospects in Detroit are even more optimistic. Last June the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority chose the ICTS proposal for its downtown circulation system. The Detroit project, which is also partially funded by the US federal government, has already received funding in the 1981 fiscal year, and the US Congress has passed a bill for \$110 million in US funds to cover the construction of the system.

I have already mentioned that Scarborough will have its own ICTS line operating in just over two years time. My colleagues will recall that originally this seven-kilometre line from the Kennedy subway station to just beyond the Scarborough Town Centre in the first phase was to be used as a light rail transit vehicle operating on a CN right of way. At that time, we raised two concerns about the LRT proposal. The community was first concerned about the high cost of grade separation where the LRT crossed major arterial roads, and there were four of them. The second concern was with the visual and noise impact effect of LRT vehicles when they would have to pass along the backyards of the Treverton Park community.

In order to deal with these problems, I urged consideration of the ICTS as a substitute for LRT. Anyone who has seen the ICTS vehicle in operation cannot fail to be impressed by its silent operation and low visual impact due in part to its fairly small size. The silent operation of the vehicle is truly amazing. In the ICTS vehicle, the axles swivel when taking a curve and steel-against-steel rubbing is virtually eliminated. Welded rails and rubber inserts in the wheels also contribute to the silent running of the vehicle. In fact, the wheel profiles themselves when designed were determined by testing with a decibel meter.

Having been out to Kingston on a number of occasions, I can vouch for the quiet running of the ICTS vehicle. Last year I took a delegation from Scarborough-Ellesmere of some 30 community leaders to examine ICTS firsthand when it was being considered for our community. I think the low noise and unobtrusiveness of the vehicles were factors that certainly contributed to the community's decision to welcome the system.

In both the intermediate capacity transit system and the related advanced light rail system, each vehicle on the line is controlled by a computer. Under each vehicle, a pair of antennae constantly provides information on the vehicle's speed and position to cables strung beside the rails. This information is instantly transmitted to the three central computers that operate the system.

Each computer is programmed differently. In order for a train to obey a command—instructions from the computer—it must take those instructions from two of the computers dealing with the same command. If two of the three do not agree, the vehicle will come to a stop. Should one computer conflict with the others the car's emergency systems will come on and take over and the risk of any sort of collision is eliminated. The system provides quite a remarkable degree of control. Trains can run as little as seconds apart if the need exists. In a matter of minutes, additional cars can be added and brought in to couple on to trains already in service—an ability which I am sure will be greatly appreciated in rush hours.

Without a doubt the Urban Transportation Development Corp. has an innovative product which is capable of competing in international markets on its own merit. The potential for sales is enormous. It is estimated that the domestic and export potential for ALRT/ICTS is over \$20 billion over the next 20 years. Potential markets exist in Texas and California. Even though there are American corporations active in the transit field, UTDC has already won out in Detroit and Los Angeles, and there is good reason to be optimistic in spite of reduced spending on transportation by the American administration.

ICTS is also very likely a competitor for major systems that will be required within the next five years in the Arabian Gulf states, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Taipei, Manila and in one or more cities in Indonesia. As many as two cities in each of Mexico and Venezuela will also shortly require major public transit systems.

UTDC has already bid for a public transit system to be built in Caracas, Venezuela. Though technologically the UTDC product was superior to that of the international competition, the financing package was not competitive. Concessionary financing is showing itself to be more and more a factor in international bids for major projects.

As Canadians, we recently saw our Prime Minister travel to Mexico. A major aim of that visit was to lobby for the sale of Candu nuclear reactors to Mexico. But while he was down there, we kept on hearing that France had offered a superior financing proposal. Very little was said about either reactor. There was no indication from the Mexican government about which it thought was better. Unfortunately, as was the case with nuclear reactors, France was also a strong competitor with the UTDC in the field of transportation systems. Unless our federal government is seriously willing to develop competitive financial arrangements with the UTDC, our prospects for major international sales will be greatly diminished. Japan and the United Kingdom have already licensed designs for UTDC with the condition that at least 20 per cent of the contracts be supplied in Canada. I hope that it will not be the case that UTDC technology reaches overseas markets solely through sales by countries building UTDC technology under licence.

I said earlier that ICTS technology was UTDC's main stake in the future. UTDC is involved in many other activities, many of them through its wholly owned subsidiary of UTDC Research and Development. This organization was formed a year ago to take over the research and development of ground transportation components and systems and for the generation of technological advances in related fields. A major program currently under way is the articulated light rail vehicle, or ALRV. Simply put, it is a stretched-out streetcar which bends in the middle. The ALRV prototype has advanced to the assembly stage and it is hoped that it will undergo testing on the light rail track test facility at Kingston by June of this year.

A major feature of the articulated vehicle program has been to rely on the experience and design gained from the Canadian light rail vehicle program. The interchangeable spare parts and technology serve to reduce both the costs and the risks. To those members who have now only taken an interest UTDC, I would point out that the Canadian light rail vehicle is Toronto's new streetcar.

The throne speech mentioned that in the long term Ontario would have to change to an economy based primarily on renewable and essentially inexhaustible energy sources, particularly hydrogen. Ontario's BILD program is backing research into alternative transportation fuels. UTDC is also involved with six of them. During 1980, UTDC conducted a preliminary study into the use of hydrogen as an alternate fuel. It recommended to the Ministry of Energy that research be conducted into the use of hydrogen for public rail and transit operations. Last year UTDC signed a contract to look into the technical and economic feasibility of using hydrogen as a fuel in the future of urban transit. Just as Ontario showed foresight in developing ICTS almost a decade ago, Ontario is now getting ready to deal with the future by looking into alternative fuels.

On Monday of last week I was in Kingston for the ground-breaking ceremony for the new VentureTrans Manufacturing Inc. building. The weather was cold and the ground was hard, but in any event it was a ground-breaking ceremony in every sense of the phrase. VentureTrans Manufacturing Inc. is 50 per cent owned by UTDC and, as its name suggests, it will be responsible for the manufacture of the new vehicle technology and will be creating many skilled jobs in the Kingston area.

The Urban Transportation Development Corp. has demonstrated that it is clearly on the track leading into the future. I believe most members, including those on the other side of this chamber, will agree with me that UTDC's work has shown that once again Canadians can be world leaders in a highly technological field if only given the chance.

The throne speech also announced that the government of Ontario will step in to reduce the hardship and inconvenience that hundreds of commuters will face when the federal government withdraws Via Rail services north and east of Toronto on September 7. The federal government is doing this on the pretext that the lines involved are commuter lines and not intercity lines and therefore should be looked after by the province.

While this is the case for some of the affected towns, it is by no means true for all the communities that face the loss of Via Rail service. GO rail and bus service is capable of taking up only certain portions of the routes which are soon to be lost. The situation has not been helped by the federal government's intention to charge GO Transit a substantial fee for

the use of tracks which are now under the same federal jurisdiction and which the same federal government is abandoning.

I am sure members of this House will be interested to know that in the area of GO Transit, although we are using CN and in some minor cases CP Rail rights of way, we are paying a profit percentage to Canadian National for the use of its trackage. How it is that one level of government is paying pure profit to another absolutely escapes me. Nevertheless, GO Transit will provide rail service as far north as Bradford, with GO bus service continuing north to Barrie. As announced, this will only be an interim measure. I can only hope that between now and September 7 the federal government will reconsider either its decision to close the lines in question or the amounts that it is ready to charge the province for the use of tracks and maintenance.

3:50 p.m.

I would like to continue in the field of transportation for a few more moments. I am pleased that the wellbeing of the auto industry is one of the priorities of this government, as cited in the speech from the throne. The motor vehicle industry in Ontario is now at a critical point and crucial decisions must be taken by all major parties involved in this industry. The appropriate course of action must include arrangements to ensure that foreign manufacturers cannot continue to sell cars and trucks in Canada without becoming involved through investments or parts purchasing in this country. In the short term, the number of imported cars brought into Canada must be restricted in order to allow our industry sufficient time to innovate and become more competitive again.

The \$25-million auto parts technology centre to be built in St. Catharines will be a first step to better its competitive performance by upgrading its technological capacity to improve products and production lines. The new centre will act as a focal point for bringing together the interests of parts suppliers, automobile companies, universities, research organizations and the government to ensure the long-term competitiveness of the auto parts industry. The centre will promote and stimulate technological development in the industry and it will serve as a focus for the dissemination of information on international markets and the future trends and developments in auto parts.

We can see that the pace of technological change is accelerating the heralding of major changes in traditional methods of communica-

tion, production and education. For example, within a generation we may be able to communicate with fellow stamp collectors or chess players in New Zealand by way of the home computer. By the year 2000 it is projected that computers will be found in one out of every three North American homes. Computers already link banks, stores and government offices. They monitor home energy use, do family taxes and remind their owners of upcoming appointments. Their potential is virtually unlimited.

High-technology industries are growing almost three times faster than low-technology industries. Employment in high-technology firms is expanding nearly nine times faster than employment in low-technology companies. Microelectronics, biotechnology and robotics not only have their own potential manufacturing markets, but also promise productivity improvements in existing industries. Ontario plans to strengthen its research and development efforts and to apply the results to successful commercial ventures, aware that increased research expenditures mean long-term jobs and exports. The sum of \$300 million has been earmarked for BILD's technology component. Funding is critical because new high-technology enterprises tend to be high risk ventures requiring long-term sustained financing before they become viable.

Also in the area of high technology, I think the Premier demonstrated remarkable foresight in 1965 when he was Minister of Education and introduced the Department of Education Act giving effect to his concept of community colleges of applied arts and technology. The graduates of these colleges have served Ontario well in providing the labour force needed for our growing high-technology industries. There are at present more than 76,000 students in Ontario's 22 community colleges. Nearly 17,000 of these students are in programs concerned with high technology, such as civil and electrical engineering, electronics, instrumentation, mechanical design, quality control, materials testing and control systems, to name only a few of the available courses.

The benefits of our high-technology industry in the next few years will affect every aspect of our business, industry and leisure time. Every home with a telephone and a television will have the potential to gain access to many predicted benefits of this rapidly developing industry. Ontario is at present the leader in Canada in its commitment to the development and integration of high-technology and related industries into our economic fabric.

There is little doubt that times are changing. Ontario, with a strong industrial base and favourable business climate, is well equipped to keep pace. We are rich in the creativity, skills and business acumen needed to capitalize on the existing new markets now opening up.

However, home owners in this country today have their backs to the wall for a wide variety of reasons. One area which deeply concerns me relates to the health of thousands of people in Canada who have homes equipped now with urea formaldehyde foam insulation. Taking this problem back to its well-intentioned beginnings, we discovered, to no one's surprise, that the major culprit in all of this was the federal government. Fifteen months after they announced a temporary ban on UFFI, we have seen nothing but the most careless and offhand response to help those families who must try to live with the effects of formaldehyde gas on a daily basis.

The great Ottawa assistance plan is a complete insult to those people who have had to pay thousands of dollars to remove the foam from their homes. But more than this, there are the human costs to consider. What price is Ottawa willing to pay to compensate these people? Five thousand dollars. What about the home owners who are ineligible for this assistance? They receive nothing. What about the diminished value of those houses? No one wants to buy them.

In the past months there has been a deafening silence on the question of legal and moral responsibility for the approval and promotion of UFFI under the Canadian home insulation program. The evidence indicates that long before the approval was given, the experts recognized the instability of the insulation, and this was compounded by onsite installation conditions that could not be properly regulated. It is amazing to think that despite these uncertainties, approval was given. It makes me wonder when this sort of carelessness is going to happen again.

Where do we go from here? Clearly Ottawa must do more than it is doing now. Despite attempts to point the finger at everyone else, no one has been fooled. The present assistance plan is inadequate for most home owners. Better compensation is needed if UFFI home owners are to achieve the peace of mind and body they so well deserve and are being denied.

In the critical area of housing, our government stands on its record of providing affordable accommodation for every household in this province. But let us not lose sight of the

principal cause of today's housing crisis. If the federal government continues to support the Bank of Canada's policy on interest rates, no amount of assistance, subsidy or support from any government will stem the tide of contraction now being experienced in the housing industry.

The need for leadership cannot be more eloquently expressed than by the figures describing the housing industry's present state. At the end of 1981, only 100,000 housing units were under construction across Canada, compared to 200,000 only four years ago. Housing completions today are down by almost one third from only two years ago. Of particular concern to the construction trades, housing starts have dropped from 225,000 last spring to fewer than 140,000 today, a decline of almost 40 per cent.

These figures describe quite starkly the grim picture that exists for most housing suppliers in this province and indeed this country. They are also a telling indictment of the federal government's interest-rate policy and the subsequent pressures that policy has put on mortgage rates right across this land. Perhaps no quantity of statistics can aptly describe the heartbreak and misery of home owners and potential home buyers in Ontario. Here the hardship is both more subtle and potentially more destructive to the fabric of our society.

Ontario has an obligation to help those areas of the industry where we can be of assistance. Of course, we cannot do the job of Ottawa. The major problem affecting the housing market today is the Bank of Canada's interest-rate policy. This is and will remain solely under the domain of the federal government.

As I stand here today asking my colleagues to join with me in moving the speech from the throne towards the goals it has set out for ourselves and our province, as I watch in disappointment as Ottawa continually fails to provide the necessary economic leadership, I realize our government is forced to act. The housing measures announced in the throne speech indicate our willingness. We will undertake "a wide range of initiatives . . . to increase the stock of rental housing, particularly in the area in and around Metropolitan Toronto."

4 p.m.

The government's record on innovative and effective housing programs is already the cause for envy right across Canada. For example, the \$12-million Ontario neighbourhood improvement program was announced in February

1981, following the unilateral cancellation by the federal government of a similar project, the community services contribution program.

The Ontario rental construction loan program subsidized the construction of more than 16,500 rental units in this province last year. At a cost of more than \$100 million and creating almost 58,000 person-years of construction employment, the ORCL program brings into sharp focus the commitment of this government to provide affordable rental accommodation in this province.

The \$300-million budget of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, a full 16 per cent increase over last year's, is a clear message to Ottawa that this government will simply not let housing accommodation soar beyond the reach of ordinary citizens.

An area of great concern to me, to the government and indeed to all Ontarians, whether they live in the city or in the country, is the strength and viability of our agricultural community. We all can take a great deal of pride in the co-operative and responsible dialogue which has been ongoing between the Ontario government and the farmers of this province for many years.

The federal government's high-interest-rate policy coupled with the rapidly rising costs of running a modern farm operation have gravely threatened the income security of our farmers and the viability of their operations. With federal aid programs all but strangled in red tape and funding shortages, Ontario has acted quickly and decisively with some \$130 million in emergency payments, much of which has gone to the hardest-hit beef and hog producers.

Our farmers have needed help; they have received it and will continue to do so. With the expansion of the farm adjustment assistance program loan guarantees, payment deferrals and interest-rate reductions will be available to even more of our farmers in the coming months.

In my view, the importance of consumer awareness cannot be overstated in our efforts to replace the \$600 million in fruit and vegetables we import annually. The successful Foodland Ontario program will continue to make substantial gains by helping our consumers to identify easily home-grown produce in the supermarkets.

The Board of Industrial Leadership and Development's \$20-million fruit and vegetable storage and processing program, by encouraging growers and processors to expand their operations, will also do much to extend the

marketing season for Ontario perishable foods and reduce our import bill. In fact, a recent report prepared by the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association says almost all of the processed vegetables and as much as 30 per cent of the fresh vegetables can be replaced by domestically grown produce.

The Board of Industrial Leadership and Development in its first year of operation has allocated some \$10 million to various agricultural projects. A sound investment of \$1.75 million has been made through the purchase of high-technology equipment for our six agricultural colleges, to educate the farmers of tomorrow in new methods and techniques.

Our young farmers are learning how they can simplify and streamline finance management on the farm by using computers for accounting, record keeping, budgeting and marketing information. They are learning about new laboratory techniques and advanced farm machinery design. In short, they are learning how to harness high technology to increase their productivity and efficiency.

I could go on at some length in that area, emphasizing this government's strong and enduring commitment to the wellbeing of our agricultural community.

We in Ontario are extremely fortunate to have an abundant supply of nutritious food, in comparison to many other parts of the world, and it is available to us at extremely reasonable prices. We must not take this fact for granted, and we must continue—and I know we will—with our strong tradition of consultation and co-operation with our farming community, so we may respond in difficult times such as these with support and assistance where and when it is necessary.

I am very honoured to be part of this government, which worked so hard during the constitutional talks to negotiate a constitutional package for all Canadians. On November 5—we all remember it well; it was a historic date—after 54 years of trying to achieve agreement on patriation and an amending formula, we finally made a breakthrough. What is perhaps most significant is that despite our regional differences and the inflexible positions on various issues, we reached agreement in the spirit of true and genuine co-operation and compromise.

The Canada Bill has now passed third reading in the British Parliament, where you and I, Mr. Speaker, have had some experience with the proceedings. It contains provisions for patriation

and an amending formula to ensure that all changes in the constitution are made in Canada, and for a charter of rights and freedoms. This charter will guarantee fundamental freedoms, which include freedom of religion, freedom of thought, freedom of the press and freedom of peaceful assembly. It could not be much more peaceful than it is today.

It guarantees democratic rights, which comprise the right to vote and the right to stand for political office, and mobility rights, which enshrine the rights of every Canadian to move freely from one province to another, to establish a residence and to seek a job elsewhere, anywhere in this country.

It guarantees legal rights, which include among them the right to life, liberty and security and the right to equality before the law, and nondiscrimination rights, which protect citizens from discrimination on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or marital, mental or physical disability.

I am pleased that a consensus was reached last November with respect to section 28, which guarantees the rights and freedoms in the charter equally to men and women. I am also pleased that section 34, which guarantees the existing aboriginal and treaty rights of our native people, was included in the constitutional package.

This fine charter, along with the Ontario Human Rights Code, will guarantee the equality of rights and freedoms deserved by the people of this province. I am convinced it will result in a more open and humane community.

Our Canada Bill also includes the entrenchment of the principle of equalization. The redistribution of wealth among the richer and poorer provinces is essential if all Canadians are to continue to be provided with a reasonable level of public services.

The protection of provincial jurisdiction over natural resources is also entrenched in the constitutional package, thus guaranteeing provinces far more control over their own resources.

We have before us a constitutional package of which we can be proud. After 114 years, Canada has achieved nationhood. I am deeply disappointed, as I think all of this House is, that Quebec is not part of that historic agreement. But I am convinced the people of Quebec will be treated fairly, particularly as our Premier has promised to continue to work towards bringing Quebec into the constitutional consensus. He is equally committed to the full participation at

the next constitutional conference of our aboriginal people in the definition and entrenchment of their rights within our constitution.

Like my colleagues here and Canadians across this nation, I look forward to the day in the very near future when we can celebrate with joy and pride the patriation of the Canadian constitution.

Just last week, the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) announced that hospital funding would be increased by 12 per cent to a record \$3.2 billion. Our financial support of hospitals alone represents the highest single budgetary expenditure we have.

Despite the fact that economic conditions are difficult, the people of Ontario demand a good health care system. In fact, there are never-ending demands on our health care system, and it is up to government, the hospitals, the doctors and the patients to take the best, most flexible approaches that can be found to utilize our existing resources.

There is room for improvement and innovation. In my riding, Scarborough General Hospital is undergoing major renovations to the emergency and ambulatory care departments. These facilities will be expanded and updated by early 1983. The Ministry of Health is contributing to both the capital and operating costs of this project under a unique deferred-payment funding project.

A CAT scanner has just recently been approved there, and the ministry has paid some of the operating costs for the 1981-82 fiscal year. CAT scanners are not cheap to operate or to purchase, and as medical equipment becomes more sophisticated the price tag gets higher. In the long run, the only sensible way to contain costs, and to improve people's health, is to spread the message of health education to everyone.

People are not succumbing so much from communicable diseases as they are from stress-induced diseases of the heart and the other major killer, cancer. Many people contribute to their lack of wellbeing by the nature of their lifestyle. In doing so, they are adding to the demand for and the cost of health care.

4:10 p.m.

The initiatives outlined in the throne speech give concrete evidence of the directions we will be taking in cancer detection and treatment, health promotion aimed at our youngsters and the vital life-support skills for both the general public and especially our ambulance personnel.

I am convinced the reason our health care system is successful is that the people working

for it are dedicated to giving their best and coming up with new ideas and suggestions. This government has always been willing to listen and to respond whenever possible. We will continue to support our health care system in the bad times as well as in the good times. Rumours of its demise have been greatly exaggerated.

During the year that I have sat in this House as the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere I have spoken out on many issues of concern to my constituents—issues that I believe in strongly, such as the seatbelt legislation for young people and the need to pursue the Urban Transportation Development Corp. venture.

One source of enormous gratification for me since becoming a member of this House is knowing that our Progressive Conservative government is interested in the opinions and beliefs of its back-benchers and takes them to heart. Everyone in the class of 1981 who joined this Legislature on our side of the House has the opportunity for full, viable participation in this House and within our caucus.

The government of this province is responsible for the needs of its citizens and the views of their elected representatives in this House. The speech from the throne reflects the government's willingness to adjust to today's circumstances and limitations without ever losing sight of our abilities and potentials.

As I said at the beginning of my remarks, I am proud to move the adoption of the speech from the throne. It offers wise and realistic direction in these uncertain and challenging times.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, I stood to address this assembly for the first time one afternoon last May as the newly elected member for Nipissing. I was both proud and humble to participate in my first debate in this chamber. At that time it was my pleasant duty to join my colleagues on both sides of the House in replying to the speech from the throne.

I am no less proud and no less humble today than I was last May to have the opportunity again to address this assembly. I consider it an honour and a privilege to have been charged with the responsibility of seconding the motion presented by my colleague the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

As we sat in this chamber last Tuesday for the opening of the Second Session of the 32nd Parliament of the province of Ontario and listened to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor read the speech from the throne, some of us reflected on what we were doing at this time a

year ago. Few need to be reminded that we were in the final week or so of a winter election campaign, a campaign that culminated in our government being re-elected by the people of Ontario with a majority mandate.

Since the major plank in our election platform was the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, our return to majority status in this House proved, I believe, that the people of Ontario recognize the need for this BILD industrial strategy for the province. Not only did they recognize the need, but also they were willing to give us a strong mandate so that this strategy could be implemented; and I believe we have implemented it.

Already \$760 million has been committed for projects over the next five years. In this fiscal year alone, \$145 million has gone towards BILD initiatives. In the fiscal year ahead, \$180 million has been allocated for what I believe are innovative and much-needed projects that will encourage long-term economic development in all regions of this great province.

As a representative from northern Ontario, I am acutely aware of the need for initiatives to boost northern local economy. Consequently, I have been most gratified, as have the people I represent, to witness the launching of BILD projects in the north generally and in Nipissing in particular.

Before I talk about some of the exciting projects that are being undertaken in the north, I would like to take a few minutes to mention some of the things that have been accomplished in Nipissing in the past 12 months as a result of this government's progressive programs and policies.

It has been highly satisfying to me, a new member, to see projects which were badly needed in the communities I represent get under way through funding from the various ministries, especially when I have worked closely with the ministries concerned and local councils and groups in the riding to facilitate matters.

We would all agree that Wintario is an excellent way of providing hundreds of communities throughout Ontario with cultural and recreational facilities and opportunities that otherwise might not be there. The community spirit that is fostered through local fund-raising drives to match Wintario contributions for community projects is positive proof of the "we-all-win" philosophy behind our provincial lottery.

Wintario capital grants approved in the past year undoubtedly will enrich the lives of the

people of North Bay, for example, by enabling an addition to be constructed at the city's YMCA complex, renovations to be undertaken at Memorial Gardens, improvements to be carried out at the Doublerinks Arenas, as well as general upgrading of North Bay's parks and recreational facilities.

The needs of the chronically ill in my area have been of great concern to me since I was elected. The Ontario Ministry of Health's recent decision to have a chronic care program in operation in Nipissing this year is a very positive step towards meeting those needs.

At the same time, I am seeking to secure an increase in the number of nursing home beds in Nipissing so that the hospitals in the West Nipissing and North Bay areas will be able to free up spaces for more active treatment beds, thereby further improving the high standard of health care services already enjoyed by Nipissing residents.

As the proportion of senior citizens in our population increases, the needs of the elderly will become more and more a priority. In keeping with our government's commitment to expand, renovate and, where necessary, replace homes for the aged, the Cassellholme Home for the Aged in North Bay received funding from the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services to meet 50 per cent of the cost of a badly needed upgrading project. This is just one of many such projects that have been made possible across the province as a result of the \$40 million which the ministry earmarked for this program last March.

As well, the Ministry of Community and Social Services contributed to the cost of producing the Nipissing District Children's Services Directory. This bilingual guide, prepared by the Nipissing Children's Services Advisory Committee, is intended to assist both families seeking services and service providers looking for the appropriate agency or program for their clients. Planning for and co-ordinating effective children's services at the local level is a primary objective of our government, and the publication of this directory is a very practical and essential step towards meeting this goal in Nipissing.

While my efforts on behalf of the people of Nipissing have yielded tangible results such as these, I have experienced equal satisfaction from my responsibilities here at Queen's Park. Admittedly, I approached my duties in the past session as chairman of the standing committee on resources development with some trepidation. We had a challenging task before us.

The proposed amendments to the Ontario Human Rights Code were the most extensive and comprehensive in its 19-year history. They were also some of the most controversial, as we were to discover during the committee's public hearings. In all, close to 200 submissions were received. Without doubt this public input, combined with a measure of constructive criticism from within, resulted in some fairly substantial changes being made to the original bill.

Chairing the committee this past fall was a valuable education for a relatively inexperienced rookie from the north. Above all, it reinforced my inherent faith in the parliamentary system of government. Here we had an all-party committee of the Legislature whose members, in a responsive and responsible manner, were able to strike a workable compromise on perhaps the most far-reaching piece of legislation ever to be introduced in this province.

The fact that the revised Bill 7 went on to receive unanimous consent in this chamber is testimony, I believe, to the fine spirit of co-operation which is possible when all those in this House put aside their partisanship to work together for the common good.

It was immensely satisfying for me to hear in the throne speech that the Ontario Human Rights Code will be proclaimed in June, marking the 20th anniversary of Ontario's original human rights code. I am sure all of us here today would agree that the creation of the revised code was a remarkable achievement and one of which we should all be justifiably proud.

4:20 p.m.

The throne speech before this House is the embodiment of our government's confidence and pride in the Ontario of tomorrow. The strategy which we have chosen to follow will continue to solidify Ontario's place among the truly great societies on earth—a land in which to live, work, raise a family and productively contribute to the affluence we now enjoy.

Yet I am disturbed. I feel that one cannot help but sense in this country a change of mood. I am reminded of the comments of a young constituent of mine who recently said he could not help but think our nation is wasting a raw potential of which most other countries on earth can only dream.

I am profoundly distressed by comments such as these, and I feel a strong desire briefly to mention one factor which I believe is a contributing influence. I draw the members' attention to the federal government's budget of Novem-

ber 12. No subject concerns the citizens of Ontario more than the shape and direction our economy will take in the months and years to come. But consider for a moment the theme. The theme for Minister of Finance Allan MacEachen's budget is "restraint, equity and renewal." Let us investigate how he has set about accomplishing this.

For the 1981-82 fiscal year, Ottawa plans to raise approximately \$54 billion in revenue. That is indeed a huge sum of money, but it will not come close to matching the \$68 billion they plan on spending. It is a sobering thought that the federal deficit now exceeds \$13 billion, more than a quarter of Ottawa's entire revenues, and \$555 for every man, woman and child they govern. That is the restraint part.

Equity: On budget night, Mr. MacEachen committed the government "to maintaining a fundamental sense of fairness in our society. As evidence of that dedication, a major overhaul of the personal tax system is to be proposed." Equity? A major overhaul? I question whether the following policies are fair to the individuals of this country whose hard work and resourcefulness have created the prosperity that abounds around us and is disappearing.

At a time when Ottawa has abandoned any semblance of an anti-inflation policy, the budget disallows the deduction of interest on money borrowed to purchase registered retirement savings plans, one of the few savings programs that insulated individuals from inflation. Moreover, a limit now will be placed on the amount of a retiring allowance that can be reinvested tax-free in an RRSP.

At a time when workers will be squeezed even tighter by this budget, the government now dictates that all job termination payments are fully taxable. Is it not ironic that the federal government fired 13,000 Via Rail workers on November 15, when three days earlier it had announced that severance pay had become taxable? For those who have lost their jobs, that is the federal equity, and I believe it is an insult added to a very insensitive injury.

At a time when farmers need help and need it now, the federal budget promises assistance to as few as 250 of them. Anyone in this country who thinks there are only 250 farmers in trouble simply is not listening.

Finally, at a time when bankruptcies by small business are accelerating, the budget has devised a tax of 12.5 per cent levied on dividends distributed by small business corporations. The Ontario Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) alluded in

this House to the federal budget changes in the depreciation of new capital expenditures, further discouraging small business development.

This is not equity; this is not striking at the rich for the attainment of economic equality. We witness in the federal budget a contrived thievery of the rights and the dignity of the middle class of this province. Let me say without equivocation that it is this very class whose determination and ingenuity will contribute in large measure to the future of our economy and its progress. That budget has stifled investment and penalized those who would invest in job-creating new ventures.

Perhaps we should stop bothering ourselves looking to the federal government for economic leadership. Perhaps the opposition comments I have heard in the last few days are correct; maybe we should forget about them altogether. Surely that is the message which the budget most ably communicates.

Gratuitous restraint programs, unjust equity policies and a directionless development strategy—it is these that symbolize federal budgetary initiatives. I might be willing to leave it at that were I not a Progressive Conservative and were I not proud of it.

We in Ontario who are concerned about government's management responsibility recognize the need for social justice and economic direction. We take that commitment seriously. By confining myself to the context of the federal budget's themes of restraint, equity and renewal, let me briefly contrast Ottawa's directionless navigation with a government that keeps its promises.

Between 1975 and 1981, the number of civil servants working for the Ontario government has declined by almost 5,000 people, a reduction of almost six per cent. The fact is that the government takes less each year out of the provincial economy to finance its operation.

In 1977, the province's deficit as a percentage of the gross provincial product was 2.2 per cent; in 1981, it was 0.8 per cent. In 1977, total spending as a percentage of gross provincial product was 16.7 per cent; in 1981, it was 15.5 per cent. The government has attempted to bridge the equity gap in this province.

Mr. Stokes: How are things in Sturgeon Falls?

Mr. Harris: Sturgeon Falls is doing very well.

Many of the fiscal programs announced in the last session were designed to stimulate sectors and regions in Ontario which bear an extraordinary burden because of weakening international economic circumstances. I could talk

about the grant to the Sturgeon Falls pulp and paper operation. We could divert to that. I could get to that later on.

Mr. Kolyn: Don't let him break your train of thought.

Mr. Harris: Thank you. For example, the cash rebate program on automobiles to assist an industry that employs one out of every six workers in this province was an attempt to assist with equity. I was in this House when that was roundly booed by the opposition. It was one of the most successful short-term interventions in the past year made by any government to assist an ailing industry. There was also \$37 million spent on emergency beef programs last summer and the \$20 million cow-calf assistance program announced last fall.

Finally, let me say a couple of words about Ontario's strategy for economic renewal. As a member of the government party, I say with pride that this province possesses one of the most innovative economic strategies of any jurisdiction in North America. Of course, I refer to the the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development initiative which formed the backbone of our election platform last March.

Mr. Breaugh: Put a chuckle in after that.

Mr. Harris: My friend laughed at it during the election campaign, and he can laugh at it now. Based on the results of that day, I proudly claim the people of this province recognize the sincere commitment to reindustrialization this government has made.

The Ontario government has pledged \$614 million in BILD support. The private sector and municipal governments have co-operated in the BILD strategy with a further \$275 million, and yet Ottawa has contributed less than \$32 million to BILD projects.

When the government of Ontario shows so much courage and conviction in restraining inflation-causing government spending that the Quebec Minister of Finance acknowledges our commendable record of fiscal responsibility with the words, "But then they"—that is, Ontario—"started cutting back three or four years ago"; when the history of Ontario's Progressive Conservative government points to universal health and education subsidies, support for small business and farmers; when this government stands on a platform of ambitious, exciting development projects aimed at economic renewal, then would we not be entitled to reveal Ottawa's budget for the farce that it is?

4:30 p.m.

Interjection.

Mr. Harris: I am sure he will hear of it. I assert that we must stand together today both to approve the timely measures introduced in Tuesday's throne speech and once again to issue a collective plea to Ottawa. This government, the province and its people cannot carry the whole load. We need a break from Ottawa's harsh budget and we must work together to bring about the necessary changes.

Turning more specifically to the needs and the ambition of northern Ontario, now—

Mr. Stokes: That's what I was waiting for.

Mr. Harris: That is why the member is here. I am proud to point out to this House that our government is engaged in a long and costly struggle to provide the north with economic prosperity and stability, with job security and with the social and personal amenities that southern Ontarians have taken for granted. Our government is committed to providing assistance until the economic and social gap between the north and south has been closed—in other words, to create equity between those two different regions.

Northern Ontario's unique geographic, economic and social situation is recognized in the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program and in the priorities that have been established by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Northern Affairs. These priorities include those responding to local initiatives to improve the economy of northern Ontario and the quality of life in its communities and regions by encouraging mining exploration and development; assisting the forest industry; improving air, road and rail transportation systems, and by helping to provide for the special health and fire protection needs of isolated communities. Helping communities in the north attain social and economic development and self-sufficiency is a major priority of this government.

Mr. Stokes: I think that was said about four years ago.

Mr. Harris: It might have been last year when I was speaking.

Mr. Kolyn: I did not think the member had been here that long.

Mr. Harris: Through the northern community services and development program, for example, assistance is provided to promote industrial development, such as the civic centre project at Hornepayne, and to provide municipal infrastructures, such as water and sewage systems.

Canadians, and northerners in particular, have been referred to as hewers of wood and drawers of water. Perhaps it is time to recognize and capitalize on what we do best. The north has been richly endowed with resource wealth, particularly in mineral wealth in the Sudbury basin and giant forest stands in the northwest. These riches provide direct employment for more than one in 10 working northerners. Last year the Ontario government provided \$150 million to provincial pulp and paper companies. This is money that is being invested in mill modernization, pollution abatement, energy generation or conservation.

Mr. Stokes: Tell the people in Kenora that; they are laying people off there.

Mr. Harris: MacMillan Bloedel in Sturgeon Falls received one of these grants.

Mr. Stokes: How many did they lay off?

Mr. Harris: I have to tell you that the people of Sturgeon Falls are very appreciative of the assistance that was provided.

Mr. Foulds: How many new permanent jobs?

Mr. Harris: How many permanent jobs? Four hundred permanent jobs were saved in that community.

Mr. Speaker: Just never mind the interjections, please.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, if that party is saying it would like to let all the existing jobs go and just create new ones, I am not sure where that leads us—

Mr. Speaker: Just continue with your speech, please.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is money that will keep our pulp and paper companies competitive on an international basis while ensuring job stability.

I was pleased with our government's BILD announcement last month to share the cost of a \$10-million federal-provincial employment support program to assist workers affected by the current slowdown in the lumber and forestry industry.

Mr. Foulds: Why are you knocking the feds if it is a joint program?

Mr. Harris: The feds seem to get along well with those in northern Ontario. Under this new program, companies in the forest industry will be offered funds for equipment and out-of-pocket costs to propose special projects in forestry improvement. The projects will include

silvicultural activities, nursery development, forest-access-road construction, fire-hazard reduction and forest protection.

Mr. Stokes: Are the feds going to help there?

Mr. Harris: Yes, they were finally convinced to come in and help. I mentioned that. In addition to the employment opportunities, this program will provide many benefits to our northern communities. Similarly, the special employment initiatives mentioned in the throne speech to upgrade and accelerate the construction of resource access roads will certainly create hundreds of new jobs in the north.

I am particularly pleased about two things. One, I am particularly pleased with this one small example—it is ray of light—of co-operation between the federal and provincial governments to assist in northern Ontario. Two, I am also pleased that this is a short-term measure to save jobs. These jobs are productive. These projects are ones that will assist the forestry industries when demand for their products returns.

Highlighted for the year will be the construction of the 40-mile extension to the Vermilion River road, which will provide access to timber stands or crown land north of Sioux Lookout. This road will also provide opportunities for forest regeneration and cutover land formerly accessible only by water. Last year work was completed on the Manitou road between Fort Frances and Dryden, an important social and economic link for that region.

Mr. Foulds: Have you been over it?

Mr. Harris: I had a look at it last summer.

Mr. Foulds: Did you fly over it?

Mr. Harris: Yes, I did. Another important industry in the north is mining, which employs some 40,000 workers. For the last fiscal year, the total value of mineral production in this province was \$4.68 billion. Over the next five years, BILD is providing incentives to make certain this key industry remains competitive and profitable. In northeastern Ontario our government is involved in the largest gold mine ever to open in North America. I am referring to the Detour Lake mine under development 90 miles northeast of Cochrane. Once this mine opens in 1983, it may very well turn out to be the largest gold reserve in this country.

Given the importance of our mining sector, I am particularly pleased that our government has committed itself to co-operating with the federal government in developing a program for industrial mineral development. Our govern-

ment's commitment to the resource sector can also be seen in the recent BILD announcement to establish a \$19-million resource machinery development centre in Sudbury. I am sorry some of my colleagues across the way from Sudbury are not here today to hear this. In Ontario we have a strong mining industry and a strong pulp and paper and forest products industry. Yet we have never before maximized the potential to supply this sector with Canadian-made technology and equipment.

The import penetration in the resource machinery sector is now about 75 per cent of the total Canadian market. In 1979 the national deficit on resource machinery equipment stood at more than \$1.4 billion. This centre will be a first step in attempting to reverse this situation. The new centre will ensure that our national resource sector continues to provide strong support for northern economic growth. This centre is particularly important to my area of the province. Its research and development initiatives and foreign market assistance will assist many small manufacturing companies that have started up in the past several years in the North Bay area.

Through government initiative and private initiative, our northern communities are experiencing rapid growth and transformation. Contrary to the negative comments often made by the honourable members from the opposition benches, many of our northern communities are in a very healthy position. Sault Ste. Marie, one of my northern neighbours, is experiencing remarkable growth. It has a stable economic base with sound prospects for the future.

At a recent meeting, I was pleased to receive details from my colleague the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Ramsay) about that area's economy. The healthy Algoma steel industry is largely responsible for stimulating growth in the region and Algoma's record is impressive. In each of the past two decades Algoma has increased raw steel production by approximately one million tons.

Algoma Steel has announced it will spend about \$1.2 billion over the next five years on various expansions and modernizations of its facilities. About 880 full-time jobs are expected to be created and an average of 1,000 full-time construction jobs will be created for each of the five construction years.

In the longer term it has been estimated by Algoma that by 1990 new employment may increase by an additional 1,120 jobs for a total of 2,000 new jobs by the end of the decade.

Looking at Algoma's record, we should feel proud of our steel industry and proud of the initiative taken by the private sector to encourage economic growth.

Economic development in the north has also been encouraged by the Northern Ontario Development Corp. The services provided by NODC are aimed at direct job creation and generation of additional employment in supply and service industries. Through a variety of loan programs, economic development in the north is planned, directed and encouraged to produce a beneficial impact on all regions of northern Ontario. In 1980-81 alone, 119 NODC loans amounting to approximately \$17.2 million were approved.

To promote industry and tourism in my riding, last November our government announced the West Nipissing area was chosen as a pilot project for the community development corporation program in northern Ontario. Under the BILD program, the West Nipissing Municipal Association is eligible to receive up to \$100,000 a year for a three-year period to assist local entrepreneurs through provision of counselling, technical expertise and feasibility studies to establish and expand local business enterprises. This is another example of BILD initiative assisting small businesses and enterprises to help themselves. That is the way we like to do it in the north.

As I stated earlier, our government's goal is to reduce the inequities between the northern and southern parts of the province. Closing the gap requires not only economic development, but also efficient transportation and communication links between the north and the south, thus reducing the physical distance which exists between the two regions.

Interjections.

Mr. Harris: It might have taken some time, but it took me a while to get down to Queen's Park.

Currently, the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission provides a rail, air and ferry transportation network linking northern communities with each other as well as with communities in southern Ontario. These services have gone a long way in closing the physical gap between northern and southern Ontario.

Ontario is a province of great beauty. Whether we live in the north or the south, tourism represents not only an important source of revenue, but it affords us the opportunity to understand the serenity and majesty of our

heritage. Tourism represents the second largest industry in Ontario. Approximately half a million people are employed in the hospitality sector. As foreign travel becomes increasingly costly, more and more Ontarians, North Americans and overseas tourists are discovering our province.

The vigour and importance of this industry has been recognized with the creation of the new Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. Despite the economic trends that have affected other sectors of our economy, tourism is booming. In order to ensure the continued growth of this sector, the government will be allocating additional funds to the tourism marketing program.

The success of the tourism marketing program is due in part to the wide range of services that are available to Ontario tourist operators. Consultants in the ministry offices provide advice and information, in-house training, market data and analysis and distribute promotional material to ensure that people are aware of the attractions available. Many of our tourists themselves are Ontarians, and in 1980 they spent seven out of 10 tourist dollars right here in their home province.

In the northern parts of the province we have spectacular natural attractions and we have a need for specialized support. The Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association works with the ministry to ensure the right approaches and incentives are made in order to maximize the resources we have available in the north. Certainly in the mid and far northern parts of the province we have unique natural attractions such as Algonquin and Killarney parks, Brent Crater in Mattawa, the Agawa Canyon and many other sights. There are also a surprising number of museums and historic attractions that draw visitors.

I am very pleased the new ministry has been created. While tourism is a vital business, it also involves an equally important element of fun, recreation and communication. Visitors to Ontario come to see our sights and in the process get to know us a little better. In the decades ahead tourism will become even more important. Higher energy costs, smaller families and more disposable income will combine to increase tourist activity in the province. Not only will there be more tourists, but recreational activity will become an increasingly important outlet in our urbanized society.

One of our biggest claims to fame has been our abundant lakes and river systems. I know all Ontarians are concerned about the present and

future effects of acid rain on our fisheries and in cottage country. Ontario Hydro and this government have renewed their commitment to reduce acid gas emissions so that all of us can continue to enjoy our lakes and rivers in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I know I have spoken today at some length about the federal high-interest-rate policy in the recent federal budget.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Harris: But I firmly believe these things need to be emphasized because of the severe impact they have on Ontario.

Mr. Foulds: What?

Mr. Harris: I was referring to the federal high interest rate in their recent budget. The honorable member missed that in the other exchange.

In the absence of federal economic leadership, it appears Ontario must largely go it alone. This is the environment that has been set for us and it is important the people of Ontario understand that. The federal government talked about restraints, but I see no sign of restraint in its own spending. The only major cutback was in provincial transfers, which shifted more of the burden to the provinces in areas of social services. That type of restraint does nothing to help the taxpayers across Canada. I would find those cuts more acceptable if similar restraint were shown in spending on their own federal programs.

I am very pleased with the provincial funding levels announced in the throne speech for education and health spending for 1982. They give a clear indication the Ontario government does not plan to reduce services. In fact, if it has to, it will make up the difference in the federal cutbacks. I am very pleased to note that the government will also pick up the slack in VIA commuter cutbacks—my colleague went into some detail with that today—with increased funding for GO Transit.

The throne speech gives a clear message to Ontarians that in spite of a lack of direction from the government of Canada, the Ontario government is prepared to do everything it can within its means to see that jobs are preserved and that new jobs are created in the province.

Mr. Grande: Powers to do what? You have no power to create jobs. You are powerless.

Mr. Harris: You might learn something here. Just a minute.

The federal preoccupation with fighting inflation at the expense of jobs, at the horrible

expense of failing businesses and of failing farmers, and with keeping the fight against inflation on the backs of Ontario working people, cannot be tolerated. The potential for short-term and long-term damage demands a rethinking of the federal budget. In the meantime, we all agree Ontario must do what it can to restore confidence and provide the jobs our Ontario workers need and deserve.

To conclude, it is an honour for me to rise before this Legislature and second the motion to adopt the speech from the throne. Its provisions reaffirm our commitment to the development of our full potential in our tourism, small business,

agricultural, manufacturing, export and high-technology sectors.

We have all, I am sure, had occasion over the past two months to talk with our constituents. I can tell the House from my experience, and I am sure that of the other members is the same, that they are concerned about their jobs and about the future of their small-business enterprises.

This throne speech comes at a very difficult and challenging time in our history. I submit it warrants the full attention and consideration of all sides in this House.

On motion by Mr. Ruston, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

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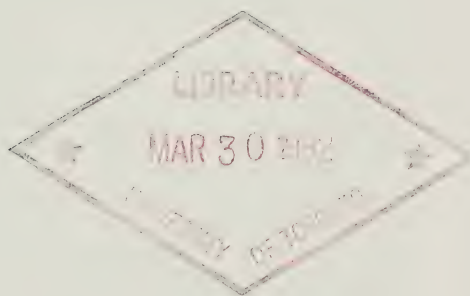


Ontario, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 6

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Tuesday, March 16, 1982

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, March 16, 1982

The House met at 2:03 p.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

SALMONELLA OUTBREAK

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I do not believe copies of the statement have been distributed.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: They need another copy over there.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the House of the steps we plan to take as a result of our review of an outbreak of salmonella at the Peterborough Civic Hospital which had such heartbreaking consequences for the Burrows family.

In doing so, I would like to assure residents of the Peterborough area that the outbreak within the hospital has been brought under control. None the less, there were delays involving discharged patients, and I believe the steps we are taking will help Peterborough Civic and other hospitals to improve their infection control procedures.

As members will be aware, salmonella are bacteria. They cause infections that occur from time to time in a number of different strains, some of which produce a mild upset while others can have some very serious consequences. It is a special problem for institutions such as hospitals, nursing homes and homes for the aged, because the disease can be particularly serious for infants and the elderly. As a result, such institutions must be constantly aware of it and have systems in place to identify, control and treat outbreaks quickly and effectively.

Late in December, an infant in Peterborough Civic Hospital was found to be infected with salmonella muenster, a virulent strain, and steps were undertaken to deal with it within the hospital's infection control system. As soon as the ministry was notified of the outbreak, Dr. Evelyn Wallace, the federal field epidemiologist seconded to Ontario, was sent to Peterborough Civic Hospital to review the steps they had taken to deal with it.

She also discussed the situation with the medical officer of health, who asked for the assistance of an epidemiologist because of widespread concern among residents of Peterborough. I might remind members of the House that this concern was brought to me by the member for Peterborough (Mr. Turner) as well. This concern is especially serious because the obstetrical facilities for all of Peterborough are at the Civic.

Dr. Jacqueline Carlson, a senior medical consultant on epidemiology, was sent to Peterborough. Her complete report has been given to me and sent to the medical officer of health and the administrator of the hospital. A copy of the report, with clinical details which could lead to identification of individual patients removed, is being tabled today.

I have discussed it with Dr. Carlson and my senior medical advisers, and they have assured me that they are satisfied the staff of the hospital succeeded in controlling the outbreak within the hospital.

Members will see, however, that the report, which is signed by Dr. Carlson and Dr. Richard Andreychuk, manager of disease control and epidemiology in the ministry, has raised a number of important questions about the management of the outbreak.

As well, I am very concerned about the apparent delay in notifying the patients or the parents of infants who may have been infected.

As a result, I have decided to appoint an outside team of inspectors to Peterborough Civic to pursue the questions raised by Dr. Carlson and Dr. Andreychuk and to advise the hospital on steps needed to deal with infection within the institution.

The team will comprise Dr. Ian Duncan, professor of medical microbiology at the University of Toronto, who is also the infection control officer at Sunnybrook Medical Centre, and John Carter, president and chief executive officer of Greater Niagara General Hospital, Niagara Falls.

I am giving them each appointments as inspectors under both the Public Hospitals Act and the Public Health Act so that they will be free to pursue any investigation or gather any

material which they believe will be useful in carrying out their assignment.

Like other members of this House, I am deeply concerned about this sad event. It is important that infection control procedures be swift, accurate and precise and that information flow quickly to all those who need it.

Consequently, the report of the inspectors will be made available to the hospital and the health unit and will be shared with members of both the Ontario Hospital Association and the Ontario Medical Association.

I want that report to be reviewed by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, which is responsible for overseeing medical practice in the province.

Finally, I note that the administration and staff of the hospital and the health unit have been most co-operative and that they have told me they welcome the appointment of the inspectors as a positive step towards preventing a recurrence of this terrible tragedy.

2:10 p.m.

FOODLAND ONTARIO PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, since becoming Minister of Agriculture and Food a few weeks ago, I have spent most of my time familiarizing myself with my new portfolio.

I am the first to acknowledge I have a great deal to learn, and as part of that learning process it is my intention to continue meeting with farmers, food processors and food manufacturers, packers, equipment manufacturers and consumers to seek their views on how my ministry can best carry out its mandate.

You will note, Mr. Speaker, that I have referred to a variety of groups from whom I am seeking input. I want to stress that I look at agriculture and food as an integrated industry encompassing the spectrum of activities from production through to the consumer. I intend to place increasing emphasis on all aspects of this continuum.

Even in my initial considerations of the task ahead I have been conscious of the need to ensure my ministry is organized in such a way as to best serve Ontario's agriculture and food sector.

As the members know, today's agricultural and food industry represents some \$10 billion worth of business to the provincial economy. This is a sophisticated and complex industry that faces particularly significant challenges in the current economic climate.

To respond to these needs and challenges, we

need an organizational structure in the ministry with a mandate for action. To carry this out, I propose a major restructuring of the organization to give emphasis to certain policies and programs which I believe will help chart a sound course for the future of the industry in Ontario.

The reorganization, the details of which are appended to my statement—and copies of which I believe have been given to my critics and will be put into the boxes of all other honourable members—will first and foremost strengthen the planning and decision-making capacities of the ministry.

I view it as critical for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to have more resources to devote to long-range considerations. And I believe it is critical to articulate coherent strategies for the industry so that competitive opportunities can be maximized and emerging competition can be met. The benefit of this capability, for example, to beef or grain farmers, or fruit and vegetable growers, to packers or cereal or flour manufacturers or to a grocery store is clear.

If Ontario is to achieve self-sufficiency in food production and is to compete effectively in the world market, we must have co-ordinated, well-thought-out, forward-thinking provincial strategies encompassing the chain of efforts from producer on through.

To complement this activity, I propose to expand and enrich the research and development activity in the ministry and to stimulate further research and development in the private sector through dollar-matching projects.

In addition, much greater emphasis will be placed on financial planning. Agriculture and food is a capital-intensive, high-risk industry, making it imperative that financial decisions are as soundly based as production decisions. In this regard, as outlined in the throne speech, I intend to address such broad concerns as income stabilization and such specific concerns as improved delivery of financial management counselling to individual farmers by county agricultural representatives.

Of equal importance will be our ability to encourage private sector capital investment in the food industry by creating both a receptive climate and, as I have mentioned, the strategies to give sound direction.

Being an urban member of the assembly in the agricultural portfolio, albeit with rural eastern Ontario roots, I am especially sensitive to what some would perceive to be the dichotomy between urban and rural societies.

In my new portfolio, I am particularly concerned to ensure that the common interests of both rural and urban communities are emphasized. In this context, I am anxious to promote the shared interests of the rural producer and the urban consumer. So, as part of the reorganization of the ministry, I will be pursuing an even more aggressive marketing program.

The Foodland Ontario program will be expanded to continue to ensure Ontario products are first and foremost in the minds of Ontario consumers. The development of more products to displace imports and the encouragement of exports will both receive priority attention. Our aim is to reduce Ontario's \$1-billion trade deficit in food products.

As well, a food processing branch will be established to promote expanded investment and increased value added to the products that leave the farm gate through processing. The members will be aware that food and beverage processing is Ontario's second largest manufacturing industry, employing some 85,000 people and responsible for some 56 per cent of Canada's total food processing activity. This being so, it is clear that these marketing initiatives will benefit the whole of Ontario.

In addition to these measures, the quality assurance programs of the ministry—livestock, dairy and fruit and vegetable inspection—will be linked and enhanced. Such services are of obvious benefit to producer and consumer and merit the shared attention of both communities.

Also, food land preservation and improvement will receive special attention. Ontario has some 11 million acres in crops and pastures, and we must ensure that this vital resource is kept intact for succeeding generations. I will be making a policy statement on this vital issue in the coming months. However, I signal its importance now by indicating that a distinct division will be established within the ministry to monitor the situation and to carry out supportive programs and policies.

The measures I have mentioned will benefit the whole of the agriculture and food industry but, to enhance support to farmers in particular, the technical advisory services in such fields as soil management, pest management and animal health will be expanded, including the necessary backup laboratory testing and analysis services.

Concurrently, the ministry activities related to agricultural and horticultural societies, women's institutes, junior farmers and 4-H will be improved and closely co-ordinated in an effort

to give greater support to these educational programs whose common element is the betterment of life in the rural community.

The initiatives I have outlined will bring my ministry's programs and services into close alignment with the needs of today's agricultural and food industry in Ontario. I hope this new mandate, taken as a total package, will ensure that the ministry remains vital and progressive.

I must add that in the short time I have been in the ministry, I have been very impressed by the dedicated professionals who staff it. They bring a wealth of diverse talent and experience to its programs and, through the reorganization, I want to make sure that the industry receives the maximum benefit of those talents.

I know that all members will acknowledge that agriculture historically is the very foundation upon which the social and economic development of this province has been built. I believe members will also acknowledge that agriculture is of the same fundamental importance today.

As the new minister, I want to advise the members that I am determined to ensure that the concerns of the agriculture and food sector receive the attention of government and, further, that my ministry is structured to best respond to the current and future needs of that industry.

SAFETY OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I have some information to share with members on issues raised yesterday concerning the safety of office equipment used by employees of my ministry in the offices of the provincial court, criminal division, at the old city hall.

I understand further that the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) will also be making a statement following mine, in some greater detail, in relation to this issue.

A representative of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union has attempted to draw some conclusions that pregnant women using photocopiers and computer terminals at this office risk miscarriages because of the equipment. I regret that the union raised these matters publicly in an irresponsible way that can only cause unnecessary concern among our employees.

Yesterday was the first time that these concerns were brought to my attention or to the attention of the Minister of Labour. It would be improper to reveal details of the health conditions of individual employees, but I can say that

my officials are familiar with the personnel records of the staff working in the locations in question and that my officials can establish no apparent connection at this time between the miscarriages cited and the copying machines and the video display terminals.

For example, we know that some of the miscarriages occurred before either existing copying machines or the terminals were installed.

Further, I can advise that none of the employees who had miscarriages has expressed to her supervisor any fear about the equipment. Nor to date have any requests from them been made for transfers for reasons related to concerns about their health.

Despite this, I want to assure members and my ministry's employees that we will continue to pursue all legitimate concerns our employees raise in regard to safety in the work place.

First, my officials yesterday requested, on an urgent basis, a study of the equipment in question by the special studies and services branch of the Ministry of Labour. That request was made to Dr. A. M. Muc, supervisor of that branch.

2:20 p.m.

Second, the union has requested a safety investigation of the photocopiers by the Ministry of Labour. The Deputy Attorney General has been informed today by the Deputy Minister of Labour that this investigation is proceeding. My ministry will, of course, make available all relative material.

Finally, I am appointing a doctor experienced in such matters to thoroughly review medical aspects of the complaints to explore each of the incidents listed by the union to determine whether any link exists between the equipment and miscarriages and related health matters.

I trust that the union will co-operate in all these efforts.

In conclusion, I want to stress that my ministry is concerned about the conditions in the offices used by our employees. We will take all action necessary to determine the facts and will respond to any remedial action that is called for.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) raised a question yesterday concerning allegations of health hazards at one of the offices of the Ministry of the Attorney General at the old city hall in Toronto. I told him I would investigate the Ministry of Labour's involvement in the matter and report to this House.

I am advised that the matter first came to the attention of the industrial health and safety branch of the ministry by way of a telephone call on March 1. The caller did not identify herself but stated that people had become ill in the old city hall, allegedly as a result of exposure to chemicals used to treat the paper used in the photocopy machines.

As a result of this complaint, an industrial safety officer visited the premises on March 2 and made contact with both management and the union. Particulars of the complaint were reported, mainly ozone and chemical fumes in the copying room, and the inspector determined that there was a need for air sampling to be done by the ministry's occupational health branch technicians. Arrangements were made for these tests to be made, and I understand they are now under way.

Subsequently, on March 10, the director of the industrial health and safety branch received a formal complaint from Local 526 of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union relating to the same matter. The letter was acknowledged the following day, and the union was advised that the matter would be investigated with the assistance of the occupational health branch. The director, Mr. McNair, also spoke to Mr. DeMatteo of the union on the same day, confirming that the investigation would proceed.

In a supplementary question, the member for Port Arthur suggested that the ministry's industrial health and safety branch has indicated that my ministry would not prosecute employees of the Attorney General's ministry if an offence is found to have occurred under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. I am advised by my officials that no such statement was made or implied. Moreover, I want to assure the House that the matter will be thoroughly investigated and that if remedial action is warranted it will be taken without delay.

I may add that neither the oral complaint of March 2 nor the written complaint received on March 10 raised the question of possible hazards from video display terminals. To my knowledge, this matter was first raised by the member for Port Arthur in his question to me yesterday.

The supervisor of the ministry's special studies and services branch received a letter this morning from the personnel management branch of the Ministry of the Attorney General requesting that the branch assess, on an urgent basis, the operation of the photocopiers and the video

display terminals at the old city hall with respect to any possible health hazards. As a result, we are prepared to expand our assessment of the situation to include an assessment of the operation of the video display terminals.

I might add that officials of my ministry have conducted a number of tests on VDT units. People who work at these devices, particularly where infrequent breaks are taken, complain of physical and visual discomfort. There has also been concern expressed that radiation could be emitted by VDTs and that, if emitted, health might be affected.

Staff of my ministry, as a result of their own extensive testing of VDTs, have reached the same conclusion as other regulatory agencies, including both the Canadian and US federal health departments, that no radiation hazard exists. We are aware, however, of the need to ensure operator comfort by the provision of suitably adjustable equipment (chairs, screen angle and height, etc.) and optimum lighting conditions.

There appears no foundation for public anxiety about the possible adverse effects to health on VDT operators from radiation emitted by the units. Nevertheless, I have asked my staff to consider and to advise me as to whether a study would be helpful in assessing the matter further.

In addition, at the request of my predecessor, the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Occupational Safety set up a task force last June with a mandate to evaluate the available information on the use of visual display units. The task force expects to report to the council this spring, and I look forward to receiving the council's advice.

URBAN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, I have a matter of privilege dealing with the response to questions asked yesterday on the Urban Transportation Development Corp.

The Minister of Transportation and Communications endeavoured to leave us with the impression that the UTDC had a contract with the Toronto Transit Commission for facilities in the borough of Scarborough, and I am quoting from Hansard. I believe that not to be consistent with fact and a very serious inaccuracy, and I would ask the minister to correct the misconception he has left with us and with the public.

Mr. Speaker: I think that perhaps could be handled better during the question period.

Mr. Cunningham: With respect, Mr. Speaker, and I do not intend to belabour the point, the minister has left us with a very serious misconception, and I believe it to be in keeping with the rules to rise using this method to ensure that he clarify this at the first possible opportunity. The TTC has issued a release, dated today, saying this impression was inaccurate and misleading.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak on this matter. The article in today's *Globe and Mail* says that I say a contract exists and that the TTC says it does not exist, and I would like to clarify that matter.

First of all, I would like to table copies of the press release issued by the TTC today which clarifies the matter to a great degree.

I would also like to table three copies of an agreement for advisory engineering services between the TTC and UTDC, signed on October 28, 1981, by Mr. Foley on behalf of UTDC and by the chairman and the general secretary of the TTC. Three copies of the agreement will be tabled.

I would also like to table another agreement entered into by the TTC and UTDC, again dated October 28, 1981. It is a memorandum of agreement for UTDC to proceed with procurement of long-term delivery items, and it is the normal method of entering into such a contract, where the contract is very detailed. The final contract document for the detailed construction of the vehicles is currently being finalized by the TTC, but to say that this memorandum of understanding and authorization to proceed is not a contract, I think is stretching the wording of the matter a long way.

So that the honourable member understands how this type of contract is normally arranged and negotiated, going back to the British Columbia contract, a similar memorandum of understanding was entered into between the BC authorities and the UTDC. Following that memorandum by a few weeks or a few months, the formal and very detailed contract documents were signed.

2:30 p.m.

As far as I am concerned, I did not mislead the House in any way. The contract documents and memorandum of agreement were signed last October by the UTDC and by the TTC. I think the press release issued by the TTC this morning makes that very clear.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, my first question is to the Treasurer. He will know that the Quebec provincial government has just announced a \$200 million emergency fund to assist small and medium-size businesses in that province over the next 12 months. That program enjoys the stated support of the Montreal Chamber of Commerce and of the banking establishment.

I want to know what the Treasurer intends to do about the problems of the manufacturing sector in this province. In the last month there was a loss of 6,000 jobs in this sector. What can this province and this Legislature expect from the Treasurer by way of a similar program to deal with the very serious problems of our recession-ridden economy as they affect that critical sector, namely, small and medium-size businesses?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, one of the constants in our economy in Canada has been the relative desirability of this province compared with some of our neighbours. The economic and political unrest that has occurred in our neighbouring province in the last few years has compounded the problems of small business. I can understand Quebec's taking some measures to try to keep it alive.

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I did not say that. I am simply saying the problems in that province are very grave indeed compared with our own. One only needs to look at their deficit to see what heights it has already reached and what drastic measures are being considered in that province simply to get funding to keep up with their deficits.

On the weekend, members will realize, there was a special meeting of the Parti Québécois to discuss those very things and the ways and means by which Mr. Parizeau might meet the burgeoning costs of his government.

Obviously they have destroyed the confidence of all investors down there and they have to try to do something about it; but we have done quite a few things and we intend to do more. Members are quite aware of the Small Business Development Corporations Act we brought out almost three years ago, much to the ridicule of the leader of the member's party. At that time he said they would not work, but a year later he said they do work. And they do work.

There were 204 active small business development corporations in our province as of March 11, 1982.

Two years ago in my budget I brought out a 20 per cent investment tax credit for small businesses in this province. That gives them back 20 per cent of all depreciable assets against their corporate tax payable. It is flowing back about \$35 million to \$40 million—maybe \$50 million—to small businesses this year. We will not know until we see their final corporate income tax forms.

Those are just two of a number of measures that have been taken. We have an attractive tax rate and an attractive climate, and I can assure the members when I bring my budget out there will be more measures.

Mr. Conway: I hope I do not take from the Treasurer's response that he does not imagine or feel that this serious matter is in fact not just that—serious—in communities from Hawkesbury to Hanover, which are being ravaged by these statistics. I want to know from this Treasurer when we can expect from him on behalf of his government a commitment that will give specific reality to the kind of pious prayer that is offered on page 28 of the throne speech to the effect that we will continue to pursue a pro-growth, pro-investment, pro-Canadian participation in our economic development.

Surely he is not standing in his place in this assembly today and saying that this provincial government is bankrupt of both commitment and capacity to deal with the fact that in this past month this province, the manufacturing heartland of this country, saw a loss of 6,000 jobs that people depend upon in this part of the country.

How and when is the Treasurer going to act to give the kind of specific reality to the sorts of pious prayers that were read here last Tuesday?

Hon. F. S. Miller: As the member knows, we provided to our colleagues in all provinces, and to the federal government too, a blueprint for economic recovery. The pious and pompous rhetoric that flows readily from him—logic does not but rhetoric does—is something that is basically one of our problems. He is trying to transfer the blame to me when he knows darn well that the crisis in confidence in this country was caused by his friends in Ottawa.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer will be aware that from 1979 until now business bankruptcies are up 70 per cent in Ontario. I would like the Treasurer to tell me and to tell a

Mrs. Peggy Murphy, who runs the Rex Motel in Niagara Falls and who is renegotiating her mortgage this year—it comes up on May 1—what he is doing. Her payments will go from \$19,440 in interest to \$28,744. Her gross income is \$37,000.

Would the Treasurer tell us what he is prepared to do to keep this business in operation and the jobs that it provides, along with the other small and medium-size businesses in Ontario, and to keep or start this economy going? He rejects our proposals. What is he prepared to do?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The honourable critic and the New Democratic Party can bring up specific examples for a long time. They and I both know that we cannot tell without an examination of any given one whether that particular industry or business can or cannot survive in the present economic climate or whether it is simply a question of high interest rates alone.

Mr. Cooke: Interest rates are putting her out of business.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I know a lot more about the motel business than the member will ever learn because I happen to own two or three of them. He can talk from the point of view of a Socialist who believes the state should own everything.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the Treasurer please just address himself to the main question.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, apropos of the minister's last answer to me, is he aware from the announcement the Quebec government made this week that the program they have undertaken is a program that they put on the table to the federal government some many weeks ago and that they have decided to go it alone and accept their share of responsibility?

Finally, is he saying to this House that the only response of the Ontario government to this critical economic dilemma is to pursue a hateful, mean-spirited, anti-federal government position and policy?

2:40 p.m.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am glad the honourable member is back on his feet. We have missed him for a whole year. It is nice to have all his anger and venom directed at me. Perhaps it will be a healthy catharsis. Maybe next week he will be back to the land of—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Of reality.

Hon. F. S. Miller: —all those things he adds. Am I aware? Yes, I am aware. I am aware that this province, Quebec and other provinces

made very constructive suggestions in Ottawa at the first ministers' meeting, only to have every one of them ignored.

URBAN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Hon. Mr. Snow: On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker: I did not want to interrupt the deputy leader's first question, so I waited until he had finished. Unfortunately, the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Cunningham) has left the House. I believe the member inadvertently misled this House when he stated that the Toronto Transit Commission press release referred to my answer in the House as "inaccurate and misleading." The TTC press release very plainly refers to the article in the March 16, 1982, *Globe and Mail* as being "inaccurate and misleading." I am sure the honourable member would want the record to be correct.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, I would only say I think the *Globe and Mail* article was based on the statement which was quoted as follows: "They have a contract with the TTC for facilities in the borough of Scarborough." That is from Hansard. I cannot help what the minister said, especially when the press release says the statement correctly reflects the current status of the vehicle procurement contract. That is exactly what the minister said, and I think the TTC is absolutely correct.

Hon. Mr. Snow: The TTC is correct. The honourable member does not know what he is talking about.

DAY CARE

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I will follow the advice of the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) and take my interest in pious prayer, keeping the promise, to my Hibernian friend the Minister of Community and Social Services. He will no doubt be aware that in September 1980 the Metropolitan Toronto day care planning task force called for Metro to receive a minimum of 680 new subsidized day care spaces in 1982. Furthermore, the minister will be aware that very recently, at the behest of his department, the Metropolitan Toronto authorities were asked to update those needs for this year, and he will know the new needs study indicated not 680 new subsidized requirements, but 1,000.

How then can the minister tell this community that a net number of 300 new places will be available in 1982? He shakes his head in defiance. I invite him to tell us how it is that the

client groups that are to receive this have indicated there are only 300 net new places and to tell us why and how Paul Godfrey is so wrong.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, let me thank my Celtic friend for that little bit of eloquence. I really welcome that question. I have been waiting for it all day and I would have got a Tory to ask it if he had not plunged in.

First of all, there is not a net increase of 300 in Metropolitan Toronto; there is a net increase of 600. Let me set the record straight. That is a total of 1,400 new subsidized spaces since April 1, 1981.

Mr. Breithaupt: The Toronto Star was wrong.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, the Star was not wrong. The Star listened to somebody who tried double accounting. If the member will listen to me for just a moment, he will see what that double accounting is.

Last April there were 500 new subsidized day care spaces allocated to Metropolitan Toronto at a cost of \$1.2 million annually. At that same time, back in April, Metro asked for a contingency fund of \$1,344,000. They were supposed to use that to correct imbalances that may have developed between municipally operated day care and privately operated day care. In September they told us they had used part of that money for 300 new day care spaces. That brings us up to a total of 800 for last year. In April of this year we will allocate 600 new spaces at a total cost of \$1,602,000.

There are 21,000 licensed day care spaces in Metro, and the total cost of the ministry's share, which is 80 per cent, for 8,600, including those 1,400 since April 1981, is \$25,281,000. That is just in Metro.

To make it abundantly clear, Metro made their own decisions to spend the \$1,344,000 contingency fund. They indicated they spent \$420,000 on salary enrichments for the purchase of day care. They spent another \$220,000 for other salaries. They used the rest of it for day care. There was \$1,344,000 put into their contingency fund last year. This year, with an 11 per cent raise, it will come to \$1,491,000. In truth, between April 1981 and April 1982 there will be 1,400 new subsidized spaces that this ministry is paying for at 80 per cent.

Mr. Conway: All that aside, does not the minister find it strange that the people to whom he is delivering this generous assistance disagree with his figures and state categorically and universally that their calculation indicates

300 net new subsidized day care places, a decrease of 200 over the 500 created last year? Does he not find that strange too?

Will he undertake to meet immediately with these people, including the Metro chairman, who has said some very worrisome things, to set him straight, lest he, like the rest of the world on this subject, be wrong and the minister right?

Third, since new data indicate that 7,000 subsidized day care spaces are going to be required by 1987, will the minister undertake to give us a commitment that his department will significantly enrich its commitment this year and in the coming years to bring about that kind of assistance to this part of our social policy field?

Hon. Mr. Drea: In terms of the third point first, there were 500 spaces allocated last year before they added the other 300. There were 600 for the start of this year. That is a 20 per cent increase. I think that is quite an enrichment.

Second, I am not the kind of man who gives something one year and does not give it the next. That extra \$1,344,000 went out last year and it is going out again this year, plus 11 per cent. That is what you call enrichment!

I would think that when my friend the Metro chairman—he is basing it all on what the Metro finance chairman says—

Mr. McClellan: He is your friend.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes. You are darn right. He is my friend, a great friend. We have dinner together quite often.

When he finds out what has happened, I am sure he is going to raise some questions with his finance chairman. Perhaps the honourable member would like to have a meeting with the finance chairman because last fall he tried to divert day care money into welfare and we told him no. Why does the member not ask him about that?

Mr. Breithaupt: The government has been doing that in education for years.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister a question or two about his generosity in this matter. The minister said he pays 80 per cent of the cost. Is it not true that we, the government of Ontario and those of us in the Legislature who try to have some effect, pay 30 per cent, the feds pay 50 per cent and 20 per cent comes from Metro?

Interjections.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There is more to the

minister's generosity. How much of the \$11 million for day care special initiatives promised in December 1980 for expenditure this year has now actually been spent?

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is the second great one today. I must thank the member.

When I say the province pays 80 per cent, the taxpayer is paying 80 per cent. Whether or not it comes from Ottawa, it comes out of the same pocket. In fairness to the federal minister, she is not like the federal Finance minister; Mme Bégin has kept her end of the bargain at 50 per cent. But it is paid out of the same pocket as the income tax. The member knows that. He performed at his convention with much better aplomb than that first silly question.

The second question he asked is a very significant one. Last year my predecessor, now the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Norton), announced a number of day care initiatives. In December 1980 the annual cost for initiatives was \$10 million, not \$11 million as the member said. Is that fair? The member is just a little off.

Mr. R.F. Johnston: What's a million between friends?

Interjections.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Like the difference between 30 and 80 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Will the minister reply now, please?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I never thought I would see a Socialist—but never mind. I do not want to tag him with the label of C. D. Howe on a day like this.

Of the \$10 million, \$3.2 million went to regions for subsidized spaces; \$1.4 million to regions for new initiatives; \$222,000 to public education; \$100,000 for needs testing, \$1,400,000 for salary catchups in Metro; and \$80,000 for consulting services in Ottawa and Toronto, for a total of \$6.34 million.

The question was, why did we not spend all the rest of it? The guidelines for informal day care, as the House will recall—and I am sure the honourable member will because he brought it up a couple of times—did not go out as speedily as was anticipated. Therefore, as I explained in the House last year, we were funding proposals that were viable as soon as those proposals came in. We are funding those and continuing to fund those. I have a great list here.

The member will know about this letter because the request came from his riding,

although it is in the area of the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch). It reads:

"Dear Mr. Drea:

"Thank you for your interest in reading the proposal of the Mornelle Court Day Care Centre. This is to inform you the provincial government has granted \$16,000 for startup and \$4,500 for ongoing costs."

This sort of thing is going on and will continue to go on.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, in the recent throne speech the government claimed it had demonstrated a major commitment to meeting the need for day care services. They state further in the same throne speech that they would encourage employers and private enterprise to provide day care facilities. Can the minister tell us whether his government intends to set an example in day care by providing day care facilities here at Queen's Park for the employees?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, the member is asking the wrong minister.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Thanks. I appreciate that. You have made my day. In this instance, I am not the employer of the civil servants who would use it.

Mr. Boudria: I didn't say the Legislature; I said all of Queen's Park.

Hon. Mr. Drea: All of Queen's Park? What the honourable member is referring to—and we do intend to do a considerable amount of work in this regard—is to encourage unions, employers, and others in the private sector to become involved in day care. What he is specifically asking me is about a day care centre here. That decision is out of my hands. I am not the minister responsible. If there is one here, it will be funded.

Mr. Samis: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Can I just call to your attention that we have spent 27 minutes of this question period on the opening questions by the deputy Liberal leader with the result that we have less than half an hour for—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Yes, I am keeping track. I was going to draw the honourable members' attention to that fact. That comes directly from asking multiple choice questions. The member for Port Arthur with a new question.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Right, exactly—and I might say multiple choice answers as well.

SAFETY OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, it is a bit of a tragedy that when asked multiple choice questions, which could be answered with a simple checkmark yes or no, the ministry makes essay-type answers to respond.

I have a question for the Attorney General, arising out of his so-called statement this afternoon. How is it that the Attorney General could be so uninformed and misinformed about what is happening in his ministry that outside the House yesterday he could say: "Some of the employees have sat around a table, compared notes and have come up with a sort of rough guess as to how many miscarriages have occurred. Obviously this matter will have to be explored very fully"?

How could he not be aware that his own ministry on February 4 had done a survey and a study that actually showed figures much higher than the ones I quoted in this House yesterday? If the minister has not seen that study, I will be glad to send him a copy via one of the pages. Here, this is for the Attorney General; he is the fellow there with his hand over his mouth, where it should be more often.

How is it those figures which the ministry showed at 70 per cent were not acted on until the union did its study? How is it that for three years the Attorney General and his ministry have resisted health and safety committees in that work place? Why is it that he comes into this House today trailing his coat, saying it is the first he has heard of it and he is going to do something? Why did they just get the request yesterday?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, my information is obviously somewhat different from that of the acting leader of the New Democratic Party. The information I have at this moment is that the facts, or purported facts, that have been released by the union simply do not bear any sort of close scrutiny.

Indeed, I am advised by my ministry officials, for example, that, contrary to what the member had to say yesterday, the ministry suggested the establishment of a joint committee with the union to explore the employee concerns, but this was rejected. This is not the information that I think was given to the honourable member opposite.

We are going to pursue this matter very fully and very vigorously. I just want to assure the honourable member opposite that when it

comes to being concerned about the health and welfare of our employees, we are not going to take a back seat to anybody.

3 p.m.

Mr. Foulds: Let us get down to basic principles. Will the minister not agree that, whatever the causes, the rate of miscarriages in that work place is unusually and incredibly high? Will he not agree that his ministry was derelict in refusing the measly expenditure of \$450 to conduct an independent investigation into the causes of the unduly high number of miscarriages in that work place? When the supervisor told the union he did indeed have the authority to authorize payment of expenditures less than \$500, why the obstruction, why the delay in the independent study?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, there was no obstruction whatsoever. As I say, the facts in my possession are so different from those the union have supplied the House leader of the New Democratic Party that we can spend the next hour debating the differences between the facts I have been given and those the union have released.

For example, as I said in my statement earlier, according to records we have, miscarriages purported to be related to these photocopiers or the video display terminals occurred before these units were installed. That is but one example of the very different basis of information the member and I are responding to.

I gave an undertaking to the Legislature a few minutes ago that we would be appointing a medical expert in this field who is unconnected with government. Within the next day or two we hope to be able to announce the name of this individual who is going to explore this matter fully, exhaustively and comprehensively.

I think we should give this individual an opportunity and, as I have indicated, and I say this to the union through the members opposite, I hope it will co-operate with this position because its attitude towards this matter has been somewhat less than constructive.

Certainly all the members of this House have a very real concern for the safety and welfare of any of their employees. Sometimes we on this side of the House get a little tired of listening to some of the sanctimonious nonsense that comes from the New Democratic Party, suggesting that members of that party have some sort of a monopoly on this concern. I can tell them they do not.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, while the minister is talking about having some kind of exhaustive investigation, will he also look into the possibility of having studies or tests done on people before they use these video display terminals so that there is some indication of any deterioration in the cornea after they use these terminals? As I indicated yesterday, at least one ophthalmologist has indicated there is a connection between a deterioration of the cornea and the use of these machines.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of people who are exploring these issues and who will be exploring these issues. I thought I heard the Minister of Labour state that there was a task force looking into this matter at present, and I assume that this will all be part of this mandate.

The former Minister of Labour, now the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie), just advised me that the ophthalmologist's views to which the honourable member just referred are not generally accepted by the ophthalmologists in this province. Obviously, considering the number of these units that are in common use in business, industry and virtually every segment of society, this is an issue that is going to be debated.

All of these issues will have to be very carefully explored, but it is very important while we continue to explore these issues and satisfy ourselves that we are doing everything possible to protect workers in the work place, that we do not engage in scare tactics that are going to cause unnecessary concern to many tens of thousands of people who are working with these units on a day-to-day basis.

Mr. Martel: Give us the news. We already heard that from your government about Elliot Lake and the sintering plants.

Mr. Speaker: Will the member for Sudbury East please contain himself?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, you might understand the member's frustration, but to deal with this obfuscation, does the minister not recognize that the figures we were talking about yesterday were for the period 1980-81, when the video display terminals and copying machines were there? He should not mix them up with his facts.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary, please.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The question will be about his facts then. When did he receive this memo of February 4 for an F. Saponara from an M. Kiddie about maternity leaves and miscar-

riages within his own ministry which shows that of 20 employees listed there were 14 miscarriages? When did he receive that? When did he receive knowledge of it?

If he did not learn about this until yesterday, then why not? Is this not important enough for his people to inform him early when this kind of inordinate cluster shows up?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, as the member opposite has mentioned, I did not learn about this until yesterday. I am referring to the statement by the Ministry of Labour, and I quote that apparently the complaints received by that ministry early this month did not raise the question of possible hazards from video display terminals whatsoever. Apparently, the matter was not considered serious enough by the union for them to even attempt in any way to communicate with me directly.

I have not seen the report to which the honourable member has referred. I reiterate what I have already stated, which is that the matter will be fully explored.

ASSISTANCE TO HOME OWNERS

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Treasurer. In view of the extraordinary unemployment figures in Windsor, where there are 20,000 people unemployed, and in view of the 44 per cent increase in welfare cases, from 2,900 to 4,189 between February 1981 and February 1982, is the minister aware of the disastrous rise of 70 per cent between September 1981 and January 1982 in the number of people losing their homes through power of sale in Windsor and Essex county?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have seen press reports to that effect, and I believe I have a letter from one of the member's colleagues to that effect.

Mr. Foulds: Since the minister will do nothing to save these people's jobs, will he take some specific action at least to save their homes? Specifically, as the Ontario government did during the last Depression, and the kind of statistics we are getting in the Windsor area are equivalent to a depression, will he institute a moratorium relief act, as occurred then?

Now that he has presumably had time to read the New Democratic Party's interest rate relief program, which he flaunted in the Legislature last week, will he now implement that interest rate relief program?

3:10 p.m.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We talked about this in the previous session, the question of entering the marketplace and freezing foreclosures. I recall some comments made by, I think, the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) in the campaign when his own leader espoused somewhat—

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Just a second. That was appropriate, because he was talking in a legal sense about—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It had to be an answer to the member's question. Now calm down.

Somewhere in his notes he said: "David, if you had ever practised law for a day, you would have known that a three-line response by a mortgagor would have protected, etc. Actions can be taken to allow protection of people in the process of losing their homes." That was the part I was referring to, and I believe it is a part of the law that can be used.

But one goes back to the federal budget, where we had some actions proposed, actions that I think we have been waiting for as members, as constituency workers—and I certainly have a number of people in my riding waiting for them—saying there would be some kind of assistance to protect Canadians whose homes were costing more than 30-odd per cent of their family income.

More than three months have passed, and we have not seen anything definitive from the federal Liberal government saying what it is going to do. That kind of promise is on the horizon. I believe it is long overdue and the federal government, instead of taking the kind of business it has before the House so far, could easily have brought in those actions to protect home owners if it thought they had the priority it said they had.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer must realize what a tragedy it is for a family to have to leave its home, and surely he must now come to the conclusion that he has some responsibility to the people of Ontario and to the people of Windsor and Essex county.

There are at least three other provinces in Canada assisting their people over these difficult economic times. In view of the fact that his government is on record in the past as making some proposals to assist people with their home owners' interest rates, after all this time, why does the minister refuse to lift a finger to help the people of Ontario?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, it is one of those interesting things to me that the government to which the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) attaches himself did not even have the good grace to carry on the interest rate deduction clauses that Joe Clark brought in, because I think they would have helped a lot of Canadians.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer sits over there and jokes around like Johnny Carson in this place every day. The Treasurer must know that the provincial government has the responsibility and the ability through legislation to protect property for the people of this province. Is he or is he not prepared to protect the people of this province and the 600 more people who have lost their homes in the city of Windsor in the past month?

Hon. F. S. Miller: As I told the member's acting leader, there is a federal program under way and we are waiting for it.

ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the new Minister of Industry and Trade Development. The minister said in his statement of February 18, "There is a great deal more government can do to make it less difficult for business to demonstrate its productive mandate for responsible economic growth."

Given that statement by the minister, has he now been made aware of the way in which the Ontario Development Corporation handled the application of a small Canadian publisher, namely, Virgo Press, a small business employing 15 people?

Has he also been made aware of the fact that the ODC dragged its feet on this application for almost eight months and ended up by imposing such onerous conditions that Virgo Press was forced out of business and 15 people lost their jobs?

Is that what the minister means when he says the Ontario government should make it less difficult for business to operate in this jurisdiction?

Hon. Mr. Walker: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Sweeney: I gather the minister's answer means he is not aware of the situation. Could I then ask—

Mr. Speaker: I think the question I heard was, "Is this what the minister means?" to which the answer was "no."

Mr. Sweeney: There were two other parts to

the question. First of all, is the minister aware of what happened in this situation? Was his answer "no" to that as well?

Hon. Mr. Walker: I do not have all the details in respect of the Virgo matter, but I will be pleased to get them and report to the honourable member.

Mr. Sweeney: Given that response, will the minister in reviewing this situation also review the general type of practice of the ODC to assure himself and this House that small Canadian businesses, which are the base of the productive growth of this province, will not be treated this way by the ODC, particularly when jobs are at stake?

Hon. Mr. Walker: I can assure the honourable member that the ODC and indeed the entire range of development corporations over the last 14 years have helped in something like 1,400 applications, and I am sure they have saved literally hundreds and hundreds of companies from disaster. That is their mandate, to avoid that kind of thing happening and to become a catalyst by which something can develop in respect of a firm's products.

SALMONELLA OUTBREAK

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health arising out of his statement today, which I may say we welcome.

I want to deal with the heart of the report on page 9, section (b), No. 3: "The medical officer of health should be notified and involved in all aspects of the investigation and management of an outbreak of a communicable disease."

In view of the fact that the medical officer of health was notified on December 29 and the problem was that neither she nor the public health department was involved, can the minister assure us that the inspectors appointed today will, as part of their investigation, come to a determination as to why the medical officer of health and the public health department failed to ensure that the families of babies who had been exposed to salmonosis in the hospital were not informed of the exposure and why they were not advised of proper health procedures by either the medical officer of health or his officials in that public health department, and why in effect the public health function with respect to a communicable disease did not take place?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McClellan: Thank you. Will the minister undertake to table the report of his inspectors in

the House, and will he review the Public Health Act and its regulations to ensure that there are no gaps and loopholes in the act and regulations? If there are, will the minister bring forward amendments, particularly to the regulations, so that this kind of breakdown in public health administration and responsibility does not occur again in this community or in any other community?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The answer to the first supplementary is yes. In answer to the second, I remind the honourable member that it is the intention of the government to introduce, it is hoped during this session, a new Health Protection Act which will deal with many of the problems and procedures surrounding the local health units.

I only add this caution. We have taken some great care in having Dr. Carlson's report tabled and made available, as we will have the inspector's report made available, and I think we have moved fairly expeditiously to appoint two very good inspectors with wide powers.

3:20 p.m.

The member suggests in his final supplementary that there was a breakdown. I think that may be, and I went through this with his acting leader the other day. I do not want to raise unnecessary fears nor understate the problem. I think the use of a word such as "breakdown" in the circumstances may be a little extreme. I think if the honourable member would stick to the terms used and the facts as reported by Dr. Carlson, or at least as alleged, the good citizens of Peterborough would be rather well served.

IMPUTED RENT TAX

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. I have followed with great concern the comments of the Minister of Finance, who recently suggested that the federal government is considering a plan to tax home owners on the imputed rent they earn from living in their own residences.

Interjections.

Mr. Kolyn: As this House may be aware, imputed rent is the net return a home owner would make if he rented his home to another person. Although a landlord who rents space in his house pays tax on—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will you please resume your seat? I serve notice on the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) that I have entertained just about enough of his interventions and free advice. I ask him to remain silent unless

he has a question. The members on the government side have as much right to ask questions as the members on that side.

Mr. Kolyn: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although a landlord who rents space in his house pays tax on the net return he earns, a home owner who in effect rents his home to himself pays no such tax. Despite the denials of Mr. MacEachen that he would institute such an abominably unfair and unjust tax measure, I would like to ask the Treasurer what his response would be if such a policy were enacted by Ottawa.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I was reading an article in the *Toronto Sun*, dated today, March 16—

Mr. Kerrio: Is this a hypothetical answer to a hypothetical question?

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Speaker: Will you address the question, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: They get so upset when one of our members takes part, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact, that gentleman did not speak to me before question period, and the member should know that; nor did he imply that he was going to ask a question. That is his right and it is proper.

I am very concerned. When one reads an article such as this in the *Toronto Sun* of March 16 that says the home equity tax scare really is nothing to scoff at, one has to recognize the philosophy that has permeated the latest budget. That latest budget really said to tax everything that creates any incentive to invest in Canada.

Mr. Kerrio: That was Crosbie.

Mr. Speaker: Will the member for Niagara Falls please be quiet.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That was not. It was the November budget, which was seen by all sectors and segments of this society as the most destructive around. I am really concerned about the kind of reaction this letter from the Dominion Life Assurance Company got out of Ottawa. Instead of allaying my fears, it increases my fears that they are thinking of something like that.

If they tried to impute the value of rent in someone's homes, then all of us should arise in a very angry way and say it is improper and destroying one of the fundamental parts of our society: the values that come from owning a home.

I also point out that if they do not then allow

total interest deductibility and all the other costs a normal landlord would be allowed to have, then they would have a skewed system.

CARLETON ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD AND TEACHERS DISPUTE

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education. I want to join with my colleague the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) in welcoming the minister back from the Middle East. Many of us here are grateful that there has been no outbreak of hostilities as a result of her visit.

Mr. Speaker: Now do you have a question?

Mr. Roy: Yes. There is a school strike in Carleton involving more than 900 teachers and 1,800 students. Over the weekend the provincial mediator indicated that as far as the English-speaking teachers are concerned, there are no plans to meet until after the school break.

Will the minister advise us how long she is prepared to wait, or what type of public pressure is required, before she or the government intervenes to see to it that the children of the parents in Carleton receive adequate and proper education?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to have had the warm, solicitous welcome home from the best standup comic we have in the House but who appears only on Tuesdays and Thursdays, however, because he is busy being a standup comic in Ottawa the rest of the time.

I can allay the honourable member's fears: No hostilities arose; everything was milk and honey in the land of milk and honey. The only thing that did happen was that in Beirut, probably as a result of the member's intervention there, a car was blown up in front of the French embassy this morning. It had some pretty disastrous results, unfortunately.

The unfortunate strike that is occurring in Carleton is of grave concern to anyone who has any interest in the education program for children. However, in that situation a very capable and vigorous mediator has been appointed, and he has been working diligently to attempt to bring the parties together. Over the weekend he had meetings with representatives of l'Association des enseignants franco-ontariens in an attempt to find a mechanism for a solution to that portion of the strike—because I would remind the member that there are two teachers'

organizations on strike in that situation—and, unfortunately, he was unable to find a resolution at that time.

The member is totally aware that it is the responsibility of the Education Relations Commission to monitor this. I can assure him they have been doing it with great diligence and vigour, and they have been keeping the ministry informed of developments on a regular basis.

The concern that the member expresses is shared equally on this side of the House, and of course we will be doing our best to try to solve the problems as rapidly as possible.

Mr. Nixon: If the strike isn't in Toronto, it doesn't exist.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I remind the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) that this is what he said when there was a strike in his area.

Mr. Nixon: It went on for months and months before you finally did anything.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It did not go on for months, and it was resolved as a result of the direct intervention of the minister.

Mr. Roy: I appreciate what the minister says about intervention, and that is what I am asking about: If she intervened in the other situation, what is she waiting for here? Some of these children have been out of school since February 22.

Does the minister realize that part of the problem is that the separate school teachers are attempting to get parity with their colleagues in the public school system? Given that situation and the fact that both parties are at loggerheads in this case, does the minister not realize that part of the problem is the inadequate funding by her ministry of that school board and many other school boards in the province?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, that is the most ludicrous statement that has been made in this House, aside from the deputy leader's question earlier today. The problem there is parity unrelated to wages, because it is my understanding that teachers' wages are on a par in that system at present. Some concerns are being expressed by both board and teachers in that situation, and I remind the House that those concerns are expressed in almost all disputes between teachers and boards.

One of the things that both parties to any such dispute must remember is that they have a personal responsibility for the provision of education programs for the children in their jurisdiction. I assume those individuals are as

concerned about that responsibility as anyone else, and it is my sincere hope that, with or without the help of a mediator, they will be back at the bargaining table to find a solution to get those children back to school.

3:30 p.m.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour will know that yesterday a study was released which indicated the Inco workers have a higher rate of cancer than those in most areas. The Globe and Mail says, "The study also found elevated cancer levels among Inco's non-sintering plant workers, but the higher rates could not be conclusively linked to any particular cause or work place."

Does that study attempt to pinpoint where there are extremely high areas of cancer, such as Creighton Mine, where we know as of 1980 there are 27 cases of cancer?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I first became aware of the fact that the McMaster study on cancer death rates at Inco Ltd. had been released when I read about it in this morning's Globe and Mail. Neither I nor my officials were notified in advance that the study had been completed or that it would be released yesterday. As a result of this article, we have, of course, requested that it be supplied to the ministry and to the Workmen's Compensation Board for review and analysis.

I would have hoped that a copy would have been provided to us at the same time it was publicly released since considerable financial support was provided from the Ministry of Labour's share of provincial lottery funds, a total of \$160,000 over the last three years. As members may know, the study was undertaken under the auspices of the joint union-management occupational health committee at Inco.

Until ministry officials and officials of the Workmen's Compensation Board have a chance to analyse this study and report to me on it, I think it would be premature to make any comments on its substance. However, I have asked that this evaluation be made without any delay whatsoever.

WITHDRAWAL OF NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, on a point of

order: I would like to withdraw my notice under standing order 28(a) with respect to an adjournment debate for this evening.

Mr. Roy: You can't be here?

Mr. McClellan: No, I am satisfied with the answer of the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, in that regard it would be negligent of me not to acknowledge the questioning and the role the members of the third party played in reminding us of this issue. I say that in the context of the fact that the Ministry of Health, as was indicated in the statement, was working on this matter for some time immediately commencing with the outbreak. But I did think it fair to acknowledge their interest in this matter.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I am wondering if we could ask the Minister of Labour when he will respond to the serious concerns about the Galtaco employees who have been refused their severance pay since the closure of the plant some months ago. That is a question I asked last week.

Mr. Speaker: I think that is a question that would be better dealt with in the next question period. The time for oral questions has now expired. Maybe he could speak to you privately.

ARTICLE IN GLOBE AND MAIL

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I have what I believe is a point of personal privilege relating to three articles published in the *Globe and Mail* and written by Mr. Paul Palango over the past three issues of that paper, Saturday, Monday and today. We dealt partly with one of those items earlier in the day in my response to the matter which was brought up by the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Cunningham), but there are a number of other inaccuracies in these articles which I would like to deal with.

First, before leaving the matter of the Toronto Transit Commission contract and the point of privilege raised by the member for Wentworth North, I would like to further clarify the TTC press release by reading the first three paragraphs, if I may:

"An article in the March 16, 1982, *Globe and Mail* gives the impression that the Urban Transportation Development Corp. is proceeding with the development of technology for the Scarborough rapid transit system without the agreement of the TTC. This is an inaccurate

and misleading assessment of the situation, and the following information is provided for clarification purposes:

"On October 28, 1981, the Toronto Transit Commission and Urban Transportation Development Corp. did, in fact, sign a memorandum of agreement outlining the operating policies and the vehicle requirements for the Scarborough rapid transit line. This agreement represented a commitment by the Toronto Transit Commission to the Urban Transportation Development Corp. to authorize the purchase of long-lead items required for manufacture of the new cars to be used on the line. It also represented an agreement by TTC and UTDC to negotiate a vehicle procurement contract to cover the technical specifications to meet necessary operating policies and vehicle requirements."

It goes on in further detail, but that is the main part I wanted to clarify on that point.

The article—I guess it was today's; I have so many here—also related to a question which the member for Wentworth North apparently felt had not been properly answered as to the difference in technology between the UTDC systems and those of other manufacturers in Canada.

First of all, the UTDC system is the only one that has a linear induction motor, which is a completely new concept. It is the only vehicle that offers steerable trucks, noise reduction and non-wearing capabilities. It is the only system that provides fully automated control. It is the only system with the completely new lightweight car bodies. It is the only system using the low profile guideway. It has the lowest noise levels of any system of this type we know of. UTDC is a company with the capability to provide a turnkey system to a municipality.

There were also comments in the article by both Mr. Palango and the member for Wentworth North about some secret program of UTDC to develop rotary motors for steerable trucks. I will tell the House how secret that is. During my estimates last December, I believe it was, when we were discussing UTDC, we tabled a presentation to the estimates committee, the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments.

On page 23 of that report the rotary-powered steerable truck program was outlined, giving the background that UTDC has a contract with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to design, build and test two sets of rotary-powered steerable trucks for use in

urban transit. UTDC's initial work was done with linear motors. This work extends the trucks for use with conventional rotary motors.

The reason for developing the rotary motor steerable truck was that, through contact with TTC and other transit authorities in North America and abroad, there would appear to be a major market for retrofitting existing vehicles with steerable trucks to cut down on wheel and rail wear and also on noise. It is with that in mind that we have gone ahead and developed the steerable truck with the rotary motor. It was so secret that last year during my estimates we tabled a report which the honourable member obviously has not read.

It was also stated that there was an \$80 million cost for the development of the intermediate capacity transit system. I will not quote exact figures, but I will point out that I believe development costs, right up to the complete development and testing of the ICTS system, was something more in the line of \$60 million. A further \$26 million was injected into UTDC by the government to deal with working capital requirements when the corporation went forward, entered into major contracts and had to implement systems.

I believe I was also badly misquoted yesterday after question period in a conversation I had with Mr. Palango in the hallway. He quoted me as saying, "We have always intended to go into manufacturing," Mr. Snow said in defending the UTDC's involvement in a joint venture."

What I said was we had always intended to build an assembly plant at the Kingston research and development centre. From the time the decision was made to proceed with development of this system, or to proceed with the implementation of the supply of systems, it was our firm conclusion we had to have the assembly plant on site at Kingston both to assemble there, and to test and work with the further development. The decision to go into the manufacturing part was made at a later date when we agreed to go into a joint venture arrangement with a private sector company.

I wish the member for Wentworth North and some of his colleagues had been with me in Vancouver two weeks ago yesterday when some of his federal colleagues, Senators Austin and Perrault, were there on the—

3:40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Order. With all respect—

Hon. Mr. Snow: I have some very important—

Mr. Speaker: I have no doubt that you have, but I think you rose on a point of personal privilege to correct the record.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I am still doing that.

Mr. Speaker: That does not really refer to the record.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Okay, I will withdraw the part regarding Senators—

Mr. Cassidy: The next thing you can do is read the telephone book.

Mr. Speaker: That was rather elementary. Thank you very much. Now will you proceed to correct the record.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw the remarks regarding Senators Perrault and Austin and the \$60 million cheque they presented and the praise they heaped.

The next item was in the Saturday article where it referred to a \$50 million guarantee to re-equip the cars for the Vancouver system with rotary motors. I can say there is nothing in the contract—even the article says the reporter could not find anything in the contract after reading it—about a \$50 million guarantee or about re-equipping with rotary motors. It is not so. It is not in the contract and it is not in the performance bond in any way.

If we were purchasing foreign-manufactured imported systems and technology, I would expect the anger and criticism of my colleagues across the House. I am proud of the accomplishments we have made in UTDC and this government is very proud of these accomplishments. I just wish that those members who are trying to be so critical would get behind the very dedicated people and the federal government in implementing this system worldwide.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, which is very brief.

Mr. Speaker: A point of personal privilege?

Mr. Cunningham: Yes. I want to correct the record, but very briefly of course.

Mr. Speaker: What record are you referring to?

Mr. Cunningham: This broken record we just heard.

Mr. Speaker: No. This is deteriorating into a debate.

Mr. Cunningham: It has not started, sir.

Mr. Speaker: The minister rose on—

Mr. Cunningham: I am sorry, but to be fair.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cunningham: Yes, sir.

Mr. Speaker: The minister rose on a point of privilege which he identified as correcting the record of a newspaper article.

Mr. Cunningham: I will do the same. In fact, I will even talk about the article.

Mr. Speaker: No, just a minute. With all respect, this is deteriorating into a debate. It is not for me to judge who is right and who is wrong. That is the whole point.

Mr. Cunningham: I am just correcting the record and I rise on—

Mr. Speaker: With all respect, you rose earlier on a point of privilege.

Mr. Cunningham: I waited very politely. The rules allow me to do this, sir.

Mr. Speaker: They allow you to do it on a legitimate point of privilege, yes.

Mr. Cunningham: You have not heard it yet.

Mr. Speaker: I will.

Mr. Cunningham: Thank you. Very briefly, sir, and I will indeed be brief, the minister neglected to finish off reading the press release, and to correct the record, which I think we can do very briefly by reading page 2 from the Toronto Transit Commission news release, which he conveniently chose not to read. It continues: "In the March 16 Globe and Mail article, Mr. S. T. Lawrence, the commission's general manager of engineering and construction, is quoted as saying, 'We have not yet signed a contract but we are working towards it.' That statement correctly reflects the current status of the detailed vehicle procurement contract." That is all I said.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to standing order 28(b), the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) concerning residential gas rates. This matter will be debated this evening at 10:30 p.m.

I do not want to be accused of delivering a sermon but I would respectfully refer the attention of all honourable members of this House to standing order 27 in its entirety from clauses (a) to (i). I think I can make an observation that I have been extremely patient, extremely tolerant, and I would ask the co-operation of all members in respecting this standing order. Thank you.

MOTIONS

STANDING COMMITTEES

Hon. Mr. Gregory moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Welch, that membership on the standing committees for this session be as follows:

Social development committee: Messrs. Boudria, Cooke, Ms. Copps, Messrs. Gillies, R. F. Johnston, Kells, McGuigan, Pollock, Robinson, Sheppard, Shymko and Watson;

Public accounts committee: Messrs. Bradley, Cunningham, Havrot, Kennedy, Kolyn, Philip, T. P. Reid, Sargent, Mrs. Scrivener, Messrs. J. A. Taylor, Wildman and Yakabuski;

Resources development committee: Mr. Andrewes, Ms. Fish, Messrs. Harris, Kolyn, Laughren, McNeil, J. A. Reed, Riddell, Stokes, Sweeney, Villeneuve and Williams;

Regulations committee: Mr. Barlow, Ms. Bryden, Messrs. Di Santo, Eves, Gordon, Hennessy, Hodgson, Jones, Kerrio, McEwen, Runciman and Van Horne;

General government committee: Messrs. Barlow, Dean, Eakins, Gordon, Haggerty, Hennessy, J. M. Johnson, Lane, MacDonald, McKessock, Samis and J. A. Taylor;

Procedural affairs committee: Messrs. Breaugh, Charlton, Edighoffer, Epp, Kerr, J. M. Johnson, Lane, Mancini, Piché, Rotenberg, Treleaven and Watson;

Administration of justice committee: Messrs. Brandt, Breithaupt, Elston, Eves, MacQuarrie, McLean, Mitchell, Renwick, Spensieri, Stevenson, Swart and Treleaven;

Members' services committee: Messrs. Grande, Havrot, Hodgson, Jones, Mackenzie, G. I. Miller, Piché, Robinson, Rotenberg, Runciman, Ruprecht and Wrye.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Gregory, seconded by Hon. Mr. Welch, moved that when the House adjourns on Friday next, March 19, it will stand adjourned until 2 p.m. Monday, March 29.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to this motion. We have reflected on this and it is our view that the problems in this province are so serious at the present time that we do not have a right to adjourn this House next week.

We have asked for a budget immediately. The Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) responded by saying there were certain procedural niceties in

place so that he could not bring forth a budget. Then he failed to give us a commitment as to when he would introduce a budget.

3:50 p.m.

I will be speaking more this afternoon about some of the problems in this province at this time perhaps, if we have time. But I want to say that all my colleagues from my party are extremely impressed with the gravity of the situation here now. We have been off for some three or four months. We have just come back. We have been here for about a week and a half, most of that time dealing with the niceties of the occasion. We do not feel in our party we have in any meaningful way wrestled with the real problems in this province today. There has been a lot of fed-bashing and there has been a lot of trying to escape responsibility. We have not seen one meaningful attempt to grapple with the problems in a way we consider legitimate.

We in this party are prepared to be here next week to deal with these problems. We would like the government to come forward with some meaningful responses. We do not honestly see how we can legitimately not be here, given the gravity of the situation in the province at this time. Recognizing, sir, that this is not most convenient for some members, including some members of my own party and some members of the other parties, it is our view at this time that we would not be fulfilling our responsibilities if we were not here dealing with those problems. That is why we have to disagree with the motion at this point. We will vote against it and we hope we can persuade each member this is the best course in the interests of the people of this province.

Let me say to members it may not appeal to their partisan instincts, but I am convinced that each individual in his or her capacity as a constituency politician will recognize that what we are saying is correct and right in the circumstances. I say to you, sir, we disagree with the motion. We would ask the House and we would ask the government to sit next week so we can meaningfully deal with the problems at hand in this province.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, it does not matter whether we come back or not, but I ask my friends what they want to do next week. We do not have a budget. The Treasurer will not have a budget. Aside from a little grandstanding, what order of business does the opposition party want to do next week? Perhaps its House leader can sit down with us and work out some order of

business without a budget, without legislation, without estimates, although there are some supplementary estimates, all of which is scheduled to be done before the budget is introduced.

Are they going to talk for hours every day about wanting a budget? Are they going to talk every day about supplementary estimates? If they can arrange a program that is meaningful until we get a budget introduced, I have no objection to coming back. But the members are going to have to put, beside grandstanding, an order of business that is going to achieve something. If the government wants to introduce a budget, we will be delighted to be here, but grandstanding without an order of business is not worth commenting upon.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I find this procedure somewhat unusual.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to try to make a major debate out of the matter being discussed because my leader has put the position of our party succinctly, properly and clearly. But when the question comes from the House leader of the New Democratic Party as to what business can be conducted, I simply draw to his attention that we have had supplementary estimates presented up to \$236 million that deal with 11 different ministries, which would give us a vehicle to describe to the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier), the Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch), the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay), the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) and others the concerns we have about the inadequacies of government policies. We can, of course, continue with the throne debate if that is the wish of the government House leader. It might, in fact, keep the Treasurer with his nose to the grindstone so that we can have a budget without the elapse of another month, which is the way it now appears.

It seems preposterous to me that the acting leader of the NDP, who was always calling for this House to sit longer hours and for more weeks and for more months and indicating to the House on every possible occasion that we should be spending more reasonable time on the business of the public, when we have an Order Paper with bills and we have a—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Before the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk puts on the record something that is inaccurate,

if he goes back and listens to what I said, I said, "If you can put an order of business, we will be here." So let him not come here with his claptrap and try to distort what I said.

Mr. Nixon: That is not a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: No, it is not.

Mr. Nixon: The Speaker does not consider it a point of order and he very properly does not, but since the arguments of our leader and myself have convinced the rather sensitive House leader of the NDP that business can be conducted next week, then it may be that his party will join us in voting against the government motion. As for indicating the intention, our leader has done that very clearly, and in the interim supply debate last week I clearly stated on page 73 of Hansard my own concern that it does not seem proper for us to adjourn with only a few days' work after being away from the House close to three months. I strongly support the contention put forward by my leader and I am very glad that the rather agitated House leader of the NDP now agrees that there is sufficient business to occupy the House during that week.

Mr. Foulds: If I am not mistaken—it is a little time since I have read the rules and the precedents on this matter—I believe the motion is a confidence motion. That being the case, we have very severe reservations about confidence in these turkeys across the way and the way they have been handling the economy. However, I want to say very clearly that will become apparent when we speak on the debate on the speech from the throne on Thursday.

I believe this motion is a debatable motion. I believe I am engaged in speaking to the motion and I would appreciate that privilege. That will become apparent when we both speak and make our own motion on the speech from the throne and on the budget. Let me just say very openly in this Legislature that while the people on our right shout and scream and grandstand, this motion has come to us as a bit of a surprise as it had not been previously brought out in House leaders' meetings where most of these things usually are discussed when we discuss the ordering of the business.

I want to say very clearly that if the Liberals vote against this motion and cause a division, our caucus will be caucusing during the division and we will be making a decision about whether or not we will support the motion.

I believe it is important, if I may say so, on an important matter of confidence that the whole

caucus of the party should be consulted as it is a serious parliamentary matter. We intend to do that and we intend to take our time about caucusing on the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other honourable member wish to make any comment? If not, the acting government House leader.

4 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Liberal Party for preventing this day, my first day as acting House leader, from being uneventful. It is very much appreciated.

I would like to point out that since long before I was here it has been traditional to be absent from the House for the school break to accommodate the families of those members who were not able to get away at a time when their children were going to school.

Mr. Riddell: The economy hasn't been as bad as it is now.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Do you mind? I have listened very patiently—

Mr. T. P. Reid: The 375,000 unemployed can't take holidays.

Mr. Speaker: Just ignore the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: The members on that side tend to pursue the argument that when their argument is weak they yell like hell, and that is what they are doing. Why do the members opposite not listen for a while?

All I am pointing out, if the new member in the middle row there would care to listen, is that this has been traditional. I do not have to tell members such as the opposition House leader that this has been traditional. As a matter of fact, as short a time ago as last Thursday at the House leaders' meeting when this whole matter of the school break was discussed, I did not hear any concern at that point.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I must be hitting the mark. Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The acting House leader listened to you. The acting House leader has the floor, please.

Mr. Riddell: Yes, but we had something worth while to say.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: So have I, but you haven't been in here long enough to know whether I have or not.

Mr. T. P. Reid: We know you well enough to know you haven't.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I would repeat something the member for Rainy River said. He said a moment ago that this side of the House sets the business of the House, and I guess with the advice of the House leaders that is exactly what we are doing. Which way does the member want it?

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I am talking about the member saying that we set the business of the House. That is what we are doing.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I think it is a fact that we determined the order of business. It was determined that the throne speech debate would take place and that the windup would not be until April 13. I fail to see how it is going to change the situation drastically if we do not go away next week. Are we going to have another week of throne speech debate? Perhaps that is the intention. Perhaps I will be very much surprised after the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) begins his speech. Maybe he has some new things to say.

I tend to agree that the opposite side of the House is being a little hypocritical to take this action at this time. I really think they are making an issue out of something for which they really have no basis. The Treasurer (Hon. F. S. Miller) has traditionally brought in the budget on a date set by him, and it is his intention to do that. I do not see how the opposition's motion to delay this action is going to improve the situation in any way.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we will vote on the motion.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: That terminated the discussion.

Mr. McClellan: This is not a second reading debate. There is nothing that requires—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is not any further discussion.

Some hon. members: Why not?

Mr. Speaker: Because I called for anybody else who wanted to make comments to please rise.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The mover of the motion terminated the debate quite obviously.

Mr. McClellan: There is no rule that closes off debate.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I called for that quite clearly. There was no reason for anybody not to understand it. I am not going to engage in debate.

Mr. McClellan: You don't have to close the debate.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There is nothing out of order at this point.

An hon. member: You are out of order.

Mr. Speaker: No, I am not, with all respect.

Does everybody understand the motion? The member for Sudbury East on a point of order.

Mr. Martel: Would the Speaker be kind enough to tell me under which rule he is cutting off the debate so I could just read it for myself?

Mr. Roy: He already called for—

Mr. Martel: Never mind what he called for. I want to know under which rule he is making his order. Maybe you can help, but if you cannot then shut up. I am not challenging; I am asking the Speaker for some guidance as to under what rule he is terminating this debate. It is a motion and—

Mr. Speaker: Quite clearly when the debate was going on, I called for any other member wishing to make a comment to do so.

Mr. McClellan: And did he not get up?

Mr. Speaker: No he did not, with all respect. Nobody got up when I asked for it.

5:04 p.m.

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Gregory's motion which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Bennett, Bernier, Birch, Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Dean, Drea, Elgie, Fish, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Grossman, Harris, Havrot, Henderson, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Jones, Kells, Kennedy, Kerr, Kolyn, Lane, Leluk;

MacQuarrie, McCaffrey, McCague, McLean, McMurtry, McNeil, Miller, F. S., Mitchell, Norton, Piché, Pollock, Pope, Ramsay, Robinson, Rotenberg, Runciman, Scrivener, Sheppard,

Shymko, Snow, Stephenson, B. M., Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, G. W., Timbrell, Treleaven, Villeneuve, Walker, Watson, Welch, Wiseman.

Nays

Boudria, Breagh, Breithaupt, Bryden, Cassidy, Charlton, Conway, Cooke, Copps, Cunningham, Di Santo, Eakins, Edighoffer, Elston, Epp, Foulds, Grande, Haggerty, Johnston, R. F., Kerrio, MacDonald, Mackenzie, Mancini, Martel, McClellan, McEwen, McGuigan, McKessock, Miller, G. I.;

Newman, Nixon, Peterson, Philip, Reed, J. A., Reid, T. P., Riddell, Roy, Ruprecht, Ruston, Samis, Sargent, Siersner, Stokes, Swart, Sweeney, Van Horne, Wildman, Wrye.

Ayes 59; nays 48.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

ARBOUR DAY ACT

Mr. Kennedy moved, seconded by Mr. Lane, first reading of Bill 24, An Act to proclaim Arbour Day.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Kennedy: The bill is self explanatory, Mr. Speaker.

5:10 p.m.

PUBLIC SERVANTS POLITICAL RIGHTS ACT

Mr. Cassidy moved, seconded by Mr. Martel, first reading of Bill 25, An Act to provide Political Rights for Public Servants.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, this bill has been before the House previously, but it is timely now in view of the objections of the federal Conservatives to the firing of Neil Fraser, the Revenue Canada employee who wrote letters to the editor about federal government metric conversion policies.

The present legislation in Ontario states that except when somebody is a candidate a civil servant shall not at any time speak in public or express views in writing for distribution to the public on any matter that forms part of the platform of a provincial or federal political party. In other words, a civil servant in Ontario could be fired for saying publicly that he should have political rights. That civil servants should have political rights happens to be part of the platform of the New Democratic Party.

The bill would give public servants that right. It would ensure they had the right to participate in political activity, to speak out on public issues and to work for a political party, while being

protected from punitive action. The bill would also protect public servants from being forced to be involved in politics by a superior.

VISITOR

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I am sure all honourable members will want to join me in welcoming a very distinguished guest to the gallery beneath the Speaker's gallery in the person of M. Yves St-Denis, president of l'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario.

M. le Président, je vous demanderai et à tous les députés de vous joindre à moi en souhaitant la bienvenue à M. Yves St-Denis, le président de l'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, let me thank the honourable members, particularly from my party; I am very grateful personally for the amount of support and assistance I have had from them in my two or three weeks as leader of this party. I am enjoying it very much. I am enjoying the challenge and I am delighted with the way our party is pulling together and working for the good of the people of this great province.

It is very much in the House as it is in the province today. We here want to work and the Tories are preventing us. The people of the province want to work and the government is preventing them. What this province needs is some leadership. I want the deputy Premier, if he will, to express condolences on behalf of my party to the honourable Premier (Mr. Davis), who I gather is still somewhat indisposed. Even we, I gather, underestimated the extent of the decay. I hope he will express our best to him. If any chaps over there would like to sneak out in the dark, they should feel free to do that. Feel free to leave.

During our great convention there was a great deal of comparison of the various candidates, and we were compared particularly to the leaders of other parties, Mr. Rae from the NDP and the Premier from the Conservative Party. A lot of people in his own party are upset with the Premier and are saying that he really is a Liberal but is just trying to look like a Tory. Even though he wears the vest of a Tory he has made

all these moves that are causing a considerable amount of consternation in his own ranks and they are saying that he is really a Liberal and not a Tory.

Of course, the accusation has been made about Mr. Rae that he is not really a Socialist and that the party has a head today but does not have a heart any more, and he is really a Liberal masked in Socialist clothing.

One can see this convergence on the centre. All these people are running into the so-called middle ground, the ground that traditionally the Liberal Party has always occupied.

I would like members to know that when it comes time for the next election the people of this province are going to vote for the real thing and not a pale imitation thereof. I am not sure, but my guess is that the Premier is sick of being called a clone of me, so if he wants to retreat then he is quite welcome to do so.

About 2,000 years ago a question was asked. The question was, "Which man among you when asked for bread would give a stone and when asked for a fish would give a serpent?" Today, we have such a man and we have such a government in this House.

The people of this province are asking for economic relief and he says, "Blame the feds." The workers of Ontario are asking for employment opportunities. He says, "Look to Ottawa." The families of Ontario are asking for help in coping with high inflation. "It is not my fault," he says. The farmers of Ontario are struggling for survival and calling for assistance. He gives them a few dollars and the pride of Don Mills.

It is interesting that our party is the only party with a farmer, someone with a real feeling for that community, as our official spokesman in that very important sector.

The youth of Ontario are calling for jobs and he gives them Experience '82, with some 1,200 fewer jobs than a year ago; the universities of Ontario are starving for funds and are seeking his help. His response was to close a law school and an educational faculty.

The manufacturers of Ontario are seeking skilled workers. He says, "Advertise abroad." The citizens of Ontario are seeking protection against acid rain. He says, "GPU to you." The patients of Ontario are seeking universally accessible health care. His response, "Let the sick pay."

Home owners, farmers and businessmen are clamoring for relief from the high interest rates. The response, "Wait for an economic upturn."

Instead of bread, a stone; instead of fish, a

serpent. There was a time, a decade ago, when Ontario was known as the province of opportunity. Today in the 12th year of the Davis regime, Ontario is increasingly becoming known as the province of lost opportunity.

Members will recall how, a year or so ago, the Premier and his friends delighted in taunting us with the realities of March 19, 1981. The people of this province have had a full year to learn, from bitter experience, that the Premier's realities are harsh, cold and unrelenting, making no concession to the anxieties and concerns of the people of this province, and taking little account of the responsibility to act urgently on some of these problems.

The Premier and the government, in my judgement and in the judgement of our party, have forgotten that they are supposed to represent the people, that government is a means to an end and not an end in itself.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, it is with no delight whatsoever that I want to put to you some of the realities of March 19—March 16 as it is today, but I assume that they will be the same some three days from now. I want to give you some of the realities of today.

In the 1960s, Ontario ranked first among the provinces in almost every indicator of economic performance. Today, at the risk of being called "Mr. Negative," let me say that in most of those indicators we are last. The Ontario Economic Council predicts that if present trends continue we will lose 44,000 permanent manufacturing jobs by the year 1990. According to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, 80,000 small businesses in this province are at risk today.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) suggests that about 6,500 farmers are in serious financial difficulty at this time. Up to 10,000 families in this province are in danger of losing their homes with mortgage renewals in the 18 per cent range. There are 373,000 people unemployed in this province, 65,000 more than at this time a year ago, and you will recall, Mr. Speaker, that 7,000 fewer people are working now than were a year ago. Also, 21,565 Ontario workers were permanently or indefinitely laid off in 1981, and more than 4,700 workers were laid off in just the last three weeks. Some 68,000 citizens of Ontario migrated out of this province to other areas of this country to seek their fortune, to build their stake in other communities. These are some of the realities.

What is the government's response to this set

of circumstances? The response was the throne speech of March 9. It begins with a diatribe against the federal government. There is a serious diatribe. It moves through vague and nebulous promises. There is no funding indicated, no programs, and what is probably worse, no sense of urgency for the present and no sense of vision for the future. It ends with the claim that the government of Ontario will continue to pursue a pro-growth, pro-investment, pro-Canadian economic program, whatever that means. The throne speech, in the words of T. S. Eliot, was "shape without form, shade without colour, paralysed force, gesture without motion."

I came across an interesting quote the other day. It was from Gandhi, the famous statesman, who said that the most deadly sins in the world are "wealth without work, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice and politics without principle." Wealth without work is *ad valorem*; knowledge without character, government opinion polls; commerce without morality, Suncor; science without humanity, General Public Utilities; worship without sacrifice, obsession with power; and politics without principle, the Tory party.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will at least agree with me in a personal way if not in a partisan way, that our province is at the present time in serious trouble. The statistics I have recounted to this House are cold, and they mask a number of intimate, personal and shattering realities. I suspect there is not a member in this House who in personal terms, from a constituency point of view, does not agree with the urgency of the problem. There are certain partisan bounds in what we can all do, I guess. From a partisan point of view some of us are obliged to put a good face on certain problems even though we know in our hearts that this is not reality.

I could recount individual after individual I have met in the last five months who is facing problems absolutely beyond his or her or the family's control. There is nothing they can do; there is no institution in society to whom they can turn because they have all turned there and been turned away. The only resort, the last refuge they have, is some sort of government action. It is up to us. There are 125 people in this House. We have the power to do things. I will discuss later how certain other provinces have done things.

I do not believe it is good enough just to say it is someone else's responsibility. There is a time in every politician's life when partisan concerns

have to be less important than the concerns of the people he or she represents. I would suggest this is one of those times.

What we are experiencing today has been described in various terms by various people—some members over there as well as members from my own party. It is the worst crisis since the Depression; it is a calamity, and the list of words goes on and on. I am personally struck with the reality of that crisis. Even though I am one who does not believe government can solve all problems, and even though I believe there are limits to the capacity of government to function, I believe in my soul and in my heart that this is the time when we have to act.

Lest the government thinks our moving to sit next week was a joke, it was not a joke; it was in deadly earnest. It is our way of responding as best we can. One of the frustrations of opposition is that we do not have many arrows in the quiver of possibilities. Oh yes, we can make speeches and we can use rhetoric, and there are certain procedural devices we can use on certain occasions and it is our responsibility to use those for the people of this province. I make no apology for that because we are all convinced.

If you were listening in on our caucus, Mr. Speaker, if you had been listening in on our party's meetings in the past two or three weeks—and maybe you were, I do not know—you would know every member in this caucus agrees with what I am saying. Every member believes we have a responsibility.

It is the worst since the Depression. In the Depression governments acted, and they did not have the knowledge that we have today, they did not have the tools, they did not have the lever. But even then there were responses, some of them of a nature we would not want to use today particularly. Government is so much bigger today, it has so many more weapons in its arsenal, and surely we have to use those in a creative way now to help people in the province. We are the largest province. We have a \$20 billion budget, roughly 40 per cent of the wealth in this country still. If we cannot use that to help people we are all going to be called to task for that in the very near future.

This government's response was paltry. It did not address with a sense of urgency what I and our party consider are the real problems, and we want action. We want short-term job-creation action. I can give a list of ideas as long as my arm. I am sure those hundreds of bureaucrats in Treasury or in Industry or in a variety of other

ministries can come up with lots of ideas too. There are lots of ideas around throughout the province about what we can do now—in forestry, in the renewable energy field, in the high technology field, and the list goes on and on.

What we are lacking is only the political will, and that starts here. It is our responsibility to impress that upon the government so that we have the will, and it is our job to force the government, as best we can, into doing something immediately.

We can blame the high interest rate scene on Ottawa if we want to. We can blame it on the Federal Reserve Board, on Paul Volker, on President Reagan or a variety of other international demons. But other provinces have taken it upon themselves to respond in their own ways. Manitoba and Saskatchewan have responded. Quebec did just this week, as my colleague brought out today in the House. They recognize those problems and are doing something about them without federal help. We could do the same.

5:30 p.m.

The government cannot tell me it does not have the money. When it is in a position to squander money the way it does on a long list of things even its own members are embarrassed about, such as oil companies and jets, then I tell the government it can find the money to meet the most urgent human needs in this province right now.

I have said before we need an emergency, targeted, budgeted interest rate relief program; not a universal one, because we cannot afford it, but we can afford it in specific cases where people are in the most need. That can be targeted and programmed. That is not hard to do. Treasury probably has a program sitting around somewhere that could be brought into being in a couple of days.

As Liberals, we are not prepared to fight these economic problems on the backs of social services. The government is always saying we are the kissing cousins of the federal Liberals. Even though we disagree with them on a number of policies, we share a lot of principles and values in common with them.

They were the ones who dragged this government kicking and screaming into health care. It is still one of the great programs in this country and we are not going to see it mishandled. There were no proposals in the throne speech to deal with that question which, in our judgement, is a crisis. I am delighted my colleague the member for Hamilton Centre

(Ms. Copps) is undertaking a fact-finding mission across this province to deal with some of those problems.

I am sure when she comes back from her deliberations and her fact-finding mission she will add something very constructive to the debate in this House. We know there is evidence, some of it *prima facie* and some of it perhaps not accurate at this point, of story after story about cutbacks and lack of accessibility to the basic services that we, as Liberals, believe in.

There is something else that bothers us a great deal. I am not going to go into everything the government missed today, but I want to talk about some of the things that concern us deeply. There are no plans in the throne speech for the mental health patients who have been thrust into our communities without adequate housing. The House knows about the story of the indigent people walking around this province and, in particular, around this city.

My colleague the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht) has spoken eloquently about this problem, particularly during the last session. There are thousands of people walking around with no housing assistance of any type in this city. They are a danger to themselves as well as to the community. They have been abandoned after being discharged from the various institutions under the government's policy of deinstitutionalization. I have no idea why the government is unwilling to respond to that kind of problem.

My colleague the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) has spoken eloquently about the farming problems in the province at this time. I am one of those who is convinced that the farming and food processing industry is close to a crisis state. If I had to make up a list from my personal, human experience of travelling about this province during the last five or six months of what I consider the most important problems, it would a difficult list of priorities to draw up, but I would have to say the agricultural sector is the single most important problem today. That is the one that concerns me most for the long term.

If we do not rectify that problem today, it has the capacity to change the shape of this province economically as well as sociologically. We must have policies in place that keep families on their farms. I do not care how one cuts it, one cannot make money in the livestock business today. If one has any sort of operating loan, that is a reality. There is a conspiracy of forces

beyond their control that renders farmers incapable of dealing with higher input prices and low commodity prices. It just does not work.

As a society, we have the choice of seeing them move off the farms, ending up as tenant farmers and having the banks own those farms or going to the city to join the ranks of the unemployed; or we can help now on a crisis intervention basis to keep them there and to build towards a policy of food production self-sufficiency in this province.

This sector has been deteriorating in a shameful way over the past few years, and it is going to take more than the reorganization of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food that has just been announced today. That does not impress me. It is programs and results that impress me. We need so many programs in the capital area, programs that will attract new and young farmers. They are the ones who are being particularly hard hit by the present problems of marketing programs and a variety of other things.

My colleague the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria), the new critic for Community and Social Services, has had some suggestions on day care, things I personally subscribe to very strongly. We have to recognize that this is not just a social issue, but an economic issue as well. I could give figures on how many children in this province, in this city, require day care so that their parents can break the cycle of welfare dependency or go on to meaningful work in the marketplace.

There are so many ways we could set the example, as my colleague said. Why do we not have a day care centre here in Queen's Park? Let us show the way to employer-sponsored day care, a responsible thing employers are prepared to do under certain circumstances if we show the leadership. Let us show the leadership in that area. We might have to kick a couple of bureaucrats, or maybe even politicians, out of their offices. As a matter of fact, I will make a suggestion. I think the office of the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch) would be an excellent place for a day care centre.

Other things, such as amending the Assessment Act to remove the spectre of property tax from nonprofit day care centres, are things we can do here, but because of the intransigence of the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe) he is not prepared to look at them. We have to encourage those programs and encourage self-sufficiency. I do not believe we have to pay for every single

day care space in this province, but we certainly have an obligation to assist those people who cannot assist themselves.

I want to talk about an area that received no attention in the throne speech and that troubles me because, as you will know, Mr. Speaker, I was involved in the whole pension question for Ontario. We have the report of the select committee, particularly in the private field with the changes to the Pension Benefits Act. When an economic downturn is faced, it is the people on fixed incomes who are hit worst by this high inflation. We could have moved to protect some of those people, for example, by legislating a form of indexing through excess interest, through increasing the portability of pensions, through earlier vesting. There is a variety of things we believe in, particularly now when people need that help, we could be responding.

We do not need any more studies. Good God, we have had a royal commission, albeit it was a good one. We have had a select committee that has deliberated for a long time. But in spite of its leadership in some ways, Ontario has been the hold-out in so many other ways. Let us take the lead nationally and move immediately on the child-rearing dropout provision, for example, so we will not be a dog in the manger for women who need that help right across this country, let alone in Ontario. We can do those things; yet there was no mention of them in the throne speech. We should be moving on that immediately.

I want to talk very briefly about some of the environmental questions I take very seriously. We will never be able to fight the war abroad on acid rain if we do not fight it here in our own country on our own turf. We have had some discussions with the honourable minister on this question. I am one of those people who would hope the minister would get on his white charger and fight a little harder for the people of this province. He is our official spokesman. I was most disappointed with his response to the National Energy Board on the General Public Utilities cable question. That has become an important symbolic issue as well as a substantive issue in this province. I know his response, that there are a number of legal hurdles he has to get over, but he could have been fighting on that issue.

If the government wants to give us credit for what the federal government is doing, at least there was a brilliant report produced by Ron Irwin's committee. The Still Waters report was an excellent report, and the federal minister is

fighting against these questions far more effectively than the provincial minister is. I think he has a major responsibility to work a lot harder. If we are going to show leadership, let us show it with Ontario Hydro, a crown corporation we do own.

The cost of not cleaning up is going to be far more significant than the cost of cleaning up. It is going to look like pennies today compared to dollars tomorrow. Apart from the morality of this situation, I want the minister to know I see this question in moral as well as economic terms. There is a tremendous economic argument that can be made that this has to be cleaned up today and we have to pay the price. I have no hesitation about saying to any voter in this province, "That is our responsibility. Our generation has to pay for it and I am willing to charge this generation to pay for it."

5:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: We are. You don't know what you are talking about.

Mr. Peterson: This government is not. The government is not doing anything. Two scrubbers, and we scrub 11 per cent of the coal. The minister has turned out to be most ignorant on the whole question. Two scrubbers out of 20 is not adequate in my judgement. The minister has been a real disappointment. When the Premier (Mr. Davis) has given the minister an opportunity to show his stuff to his party and to this House, he has let him down so far.

Hon. Mr. Norton: All you are doing is showing your ignorance. Get your facts straight.

Mr. Peterson: I've got my facts straight.

Another glaring omission from the throne speech was the absence of freedom of information legislation. That has been promised in how many elections now, in how many reports? How many ministers have gone to their death over that question? I guess there is someone in charge now; I am not sure who that is.

Mr. Conway: The member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling).

Mr. Peterson: Is the member for Carleton-Grenville still in charge? How is he? I have not seen him. He may have an impacted wisdom tooth, I'm not sure, but we would very much like to see him here, fighting again for an issue of importance which all of us agree with in principle.

The government cannot get off the rails and get moving into legislation. We could move on that and it would go some way at least to restoring a little bit of faith and credibility in the

governmental process, which has diminished a lot lately with some help from those people opposite.

There are so many other areas that could have been handled. I want to make one other point. I will not talk about assistance for the elderly, transit problems, nor the secondary education review project because time is running short, but there is one point I do want to make.

This government has the capacity to proclaim the human rights legislation immediately; yet they have deferred that for another two or three months. That opens itself to some abuse. Certain things can be done by certain people that might be caught under that act over the next two or three months. Why doesn't the government move now to proclaim it?

The only lame excuse given was that there are not enough human rights officers to enforce it. First, the government could hire them and help to solve some of the unemployment problem at the same time. Second, perhaps we could deal with some of those problems a little bit later. Let us show our good faith and proclaim that piece of legislation right now.

We searched the document for what we felt would be a sense of urgency or a sense of vision dealing with what we consider the real problems. We did not see them and we were disappointed.

I believe history will judge the 32nd Parliament very harshly for its inability or lack of desire to address some of these very major problems. When history is written, they will look back on this session and say, "There were real problems and they did not respond." Because they do not respond, the world we will be living in two, three and five years from now will be affected. Some of the harm we are doing today will not easily be repaired. That worries me more than anything.

When people ask if we were expedient or accountable, they will say we were expedient. If they ask if we were unfeeling or sensitive, they will say we were unfeeling. If they ask if we were efficient or inept, they will probably say we were inept. If they ask if we were arbitrary or just, they will say we were arbitrary. If they ask if we were cowardly or courageous, they will say we were cowardly.

If I could do anything today, it would be to impress the urgency of the situation on the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the government.

I was walking down the hall the other day,

kitty-corner from the Tory caucus room on the second floor, and my eye caught a painting that unfortunately I had never seen before. Members may have seen it, and I recommend it to them. It is called *The Foreclosure of the Mortgage*. It is a lovely tableau painted by George Agnew Reid of Wingham, Ontario. I understand that it was painted in 1892 or 1893. It was destroyed in a fire and repainted by Mr. Reid from photographs in 1935.

He subsequently donated his collection to the Ministry of Education, and it is a piece we should be very proud to have. It is a picture of an invalid father, members may recall, hopelessly facing a sheriff or a bondsman or perhaps a lawyer, maybe even a banker—who knows?—who has come to take possession of his home. In the picture is a tearful wife, an aged grandmother in the corner and two or three frightened children looking across at this very poignant scene.

I asked to look into this because it had interested me very much and I was very attracted to it. I am told that when the Premier was Minister of Education he requested that this painting go to his office—so the press reports say—but at that point it had been crated and was in an attic or a nook or a cranny at Queen's Park and could not be found. Today I am asking that we prevail upon the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Wiseman) to deliver that painting to the Premier to hang in his office as a very real reminder of what is happening in this province today.

Members all know that I am not one given to extreme solutions. I never have been because I know my responsibility to this generation as well as to the next generation, but I can tell them that we have a responsibility.

I want to say at the end of my speech that we are most dissatisfied with the throne speech, most dissatisfied with the government's agenda for action, for trying to exculpate itself from any responsibility for the problems we have in this province, and I am forced to move an amendment.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Peterson moves, seconded by Mr. Nixon, that the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session be amended by adding the following thereto:

"This House, however, regrets that the speech from the throne fails to recognize the most serious and fundamental problems facing Ontario today, and condemns the government for:

"Failing to develop programs to ensure adequate job creation and to protect Ontario workers from the continued decline in employment prospects;

"Making no new or increased support towards the preservation of Ontario's health, social and education sectors, specifically towards hospitals, day care, services for the elderly and post-secondary institutions;

"Presenting no specific programs to help small businesses, farmers and home owners to deal with the record high interest rates;

"Refusing to recognize Ontario's need for massive retraining programs for Ontario's workers."

On motion by Mr. Foulds, the debate was adjourned.

The House recessed at 5:49 p.m.

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Ontario, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 7

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Tuesday, March 16, 1982

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, March 16, 1982

The House resumed at 8:01 p.m.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Rotenberg, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Bennett, moved second reading of Bill 10, An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Speaker, this is a very short and simple bill. The purpose of the bill is to provide for a uniform three-year term of office for municipal councils and elected local boards across the province, beginning with the municipal elections that will take place in November 1982 and every third year thereafter.

Since 1972 the Municipal Elections Act has provided for a uniform two-year term of office for all elected municipal representatives. This bill has the support of the Ontario School Trustees' Council, the Ontario Municipal Electric Association and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. In fact, at the inaugural meeting of the new Association of Municipalities of Ontario last August there was overwhelming, in fact almost unanimous, support by the delegates for a resolution in favour of the three-year term.

The government's reasoning for this has been set out in some detail by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) both at the AMO convention and in a number of other speeches. In brief, our view is that the three-year term will facilitate more long-term planning by municipalities. This change also reflects the confidence that we on this side of the House and in this government have in our municipal politicians and in the municipal electors.

There is a common assertion that the municipal politicians and not the electors will be the main beneficiaries of this change. This, in my view, is not correct. We expect municipalities to act more responsibly and to depend less on the province for guidance in exchange for a longer municipal term of office.

The three-year term will provide municipalities and their councils with a greater opportunity to plan for the future, but it does not guarantee that they will do so. But we believe that municipal politicians will fulfil their part of the bargain with the province and, if they do, municipal electors will be better served by the three-year term.

A number of municipal politicians have expressed concern that prospective candidates or incumbents might be deterred from seeking office by a longer term. However, a survey by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing indicates that more than 60 per cent of all council members who were elected in 1980 were incumbents. It shows that people do seek more than just one two-year term. Also, large numbers of council members in all parts of the province have served three or more terms. So we find it difficult to accept the proposition that most council members do not wish to serve more than two years.

Some others have argued that the three-year term of office will reduce the already low level of voter turnout in Ontario municipal elections. I do not believe that this assumption is supported by the evidence; in fact, quite the contrary. We in Canada have been constantly called to the polls in federal, provincial and municipal elections. In the past decade, there have been at least nine elections altogether at all three levels of government in Ontario.

I think a major reason turnout in any single election seems to be low may be the number of times people have been called to the polls at various levels, because it seems some government is always holding an election. There are an increased number of advance polls, longer polling hours and so on.

The cost to individual voters in terms of inconvenience, loss of leisure time and the effort required to become informed in any particular election increases with the frequency of elections. For this reason, I think it is likely that less frequent elections will increase rather than decrease the level of voter turnout.

Elsewhere in Canada, Manitoba, Alberta, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick already have a three-year term of office for all municipalities. Quebec, which is different in so many things, has a four-year term for urban municipalities, and smaller rural municipalities have a choice of two-year, three-year or four-year terms. To my knowledge, the three-year term of office works well in other jurisdictions. I believe the municipal electors of Ontario will be well served by the three-year term.

The government's view is that a uniform term of office serves to heighten public awareness of and interest in local government. As a consequence, voter turnout is likely to be higher if all municipalities have the same election dates. It would also be difficult to have different election dates for municipalities, because in many cases school boundaries and municipal boundaries are not the same. It would be difficult and in many cases confusing to hold elections at different times on different dates. If, as some propose, we had local options for a two- or three-year term in regions and areas with combined school boards, it would still be virtually impossible to have different election dates because of the overlap in boundaries.

For all these reasons we are recommending Bill 10, and we are recommending that there be a three-year uniform term throughout the province for municipal politicians.

Finally, I should note that although this bill overrides all other provincial legislation regarding term of office, during the course of this year we will be amending other legislation that makes reference to a two-year term, so that in the future we will provide consistency with this bill and avoid any confusion.

I commend this bill to the House and ask for its support.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to speak to this particular bill and to indicate at the outset that we will be supporting the bill.

The bill is important for various reasons, as I see it. It deals with about 835 municipalities, which until now have had two-year terms. After this bill is enacted into law and the first election takes place in November, they will be starting three-year terms.

It is important because every individual in every municipality will be affected and because in one way or another they will be saving money by going to the polls less frequently or for some other reason.

It is important because the municipalities of Ottawa and Metropolitan Toronto had three-year terms about 10 years ago and will be returning to three-year terms again. They certainly relish that idea.

The bill is important too because the province has finally seen the light and has listened to the municipalities in Ontario and to the Liberal Party, which has recommended a three-year term for at least the past four years.

The flip-flop of the government, which has become evident in the past few months, is particularly important because of the stance the

Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells) took about a year and a half ago when his ministry incorporated municipalities. The present minister, too, as a colleague of that minister—

Mr. Nixon: They had to wait until the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs left town before they brought the bill in.

Mr. Epp: That's correct. They were going to bring it in last December, but the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs was here so they decided to leave it until March 1982 when he was going to be out of town.

8:10 p.m.

Anyway, I do not know whether everybody is aware of the exchange of correspondence that took place between the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, representing more than 600 municipalities at that time, and the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. I want to read one or two paragraphs of a letter dated June 11, 1980, and signed by the president of AMO, Mr. Clark Mason. He says:

"The members of the board of directors, in considering the subject, expressed considerable objection to the thrust of your comments with respect to the difference in accountability of the three levels of government. There was overwhelming support for the opinion that your conclusion was both offensive and an affront to municipal elected representatives in Ontario. You suggested that legislators serving provincial and federal governments are more accountable because of the existence of the party system, the cabinet decision-making process and the opposition parties. Quite frankly, such a conclusion would appear to indicate a lack of understanding of the nature of local government."

That was written by the president of AMO, and was passed unanimously at a meeting held in Cambridge, I believe that same day. The letter was a response to the minister's public stance in the Legislature and a letter to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario saying that local municipalities were not responsible enough to have three-year terms; they did not have partisan politics and therefore they were not responsible enough and a number of things of that nature. The municipalities took exception to this and obviously dashed this letter out to acquaint the minister with the facts rather than with some particular reasons he had at the time.

We commend the government for finally seeing the light and switching horses and going

in favour of the three-year term. The three-year term is particularly important for municipalities, because municipal politicians feel it is going to be more productive from the standpoint of legislation and various other aspects. In other words, they feel their budget planning needs a longer time.

We know that Metropolitan Toronto has a budget of hundreds of millions of dollars; in municipalities such as Hamilton, Ottawa, Kitchener and Windsor and London and so forth, there are budgets of millions of millions of dollars. They feel they need a longer time period to plan these expenditures and to prepare the elected representatives for the kind of onerous and important responsibilities they have.

By electing councillors for a three-year term, they are going to have that kind of time to study the budgets and to be able to take long-term views of a particular problem or proposition. Budget planning, major planning matters, assessment matters, major projects and so forth are going to be planned over a three-year period rather than over a two-year period.

In addition, there is the important aspect of saving money for individuals and municipalities. It has been estimated that the last election cost the city of Ottawa \$500,000. That would just be the cost for the city itself of having the various polls established and having the various poll clerks and district returning officers in the polls, advertising, etc.

It was estimated a few years ago that the cost for an election in the city of Toronto would be at least \$2 million. I think that is a very modest estimate and would have escalated considerably since then, if that was even accurate at that time. If one multiplies that by the number of municipalities in Ontario, one is talking about millions and millions of dollars that are spent by municipalities by having elections every two years.

By having two elections every six years rather than three elections every six years, one can save a considerable amount of money at the municipal level. That, of course, means less provincial expenditures too because of the transfer payments, the grants that go to municipalities; if they are not going to spend as much, maybe the province is not going to give them as much. Certainly, even if they spent more in the past, the province has always found reasons not to give them as much.

From the standpoint of individuals, we know that the successful mayor of Toronto last time

spent more than \$100,000; the losing mayoralty candidate spent just under \$100,000. If one multiplies that times the various municipalities and candidates in the province, millions and millions of dollars will be saved on an individual basis.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, these particular expenditures that candidates have are not tax deductible or anything of this nature so that people often have to put in their own money, or supporters of various candidates give this money, without getting any benefit in the form of tax grants.

Another point I want to make is that, as the parliamentary assistant has alluded, there may very well be better turnouts at elections, but I want to add that when we do have municipal elections we get better turnouts when there is a contest for the mayoralty position rather than a very uninteresting kind of contest.

Before I close, I again want to draw to the attention of the parliamentary assistant and of this House my deep disappointment at the fact that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing never distinguishes this House by his presence when legislation for municipal affairs and housing is discussed.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is a very strange verb to use.

Mr. Epp: I knew some people would take exception to it. I thought it might be from across the House rather than from over on that side.

Anyway, I would very much appreciate if the minister would take his responsibilities seriously, particularly the legislative end of things, and come to this House once and try to defend some legislation that is being brought to the attention of this House.

In the year and more that he has been Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, he has yet to be here on a single piece of legislation. I think that is an affront to this House and to the public of this province.

Mr. Haggerty: Reduce his salary to \$1.

Mr. Epp: We may have the opportunity yet to reduce it to \$1. I remember when Cantrakon came up and we were going to reduce his salary to \$1, he changed his tune very quickly and that has never risen again.

I want to reiterate that we are supporting this bill. I look forward to hearing the comments of the other speakers with respect to this debate.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I want to support this bill on behalf of the New Democratic Party and to make some comments about the bill itself.

I should note in passing that I am personally pleased that the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs has graced us with his absence this evening. It seems to me that always adds something to the tone and tenor of the debate of the place. It makes for a little classier effort.

The bill that is before us is similar in concept and principle to many of the resolutions and private bills which we as individual members of the party have put before the Legislature. Of course, it reflects the position of most of the larger municipal organizations in Ontario.

It has some faults. I think the very simplicity of the bill itself is in a sense a fault, because it does not reflect the kind of diversity that is present in municipal politics across the province. After all, we are really talking about such diverse animals as the municipal council of Metropolitan Toronto, the city of Toronto council and small rural municipalities and school boards which really have very different sets of problems and to which the whole political process is quite different.

It is difficult in this one bill, with this one simplified principle, to try to meet the needs of such a diverse group.

8:20 p.m.

Let me speak about the positive side of this piece of legislation. I have been privileged to serve on municipal councils in the past, as have many members here. Even when the wonderful pleasure of regional government was stuck down our throats in the region of Durham, I managed to serve a three-year term; so I am perhaps in the unusual position of being able to compare the two-year term versus the three-year term.

Let me try to dispense with some myths that are around here. Somehow there is the notion that more democracy is involved if one has elections every two years. The only thing I can see in that process is that undeniably there are more elections, but I am not convinced that really brings us any more democracy.

There are occasions in municipal politics when one despairs somewhat about the number of people who vote during the course of elections and about the kind of elections that are held. There are many people in municipal politics in Ontario who are attempting to change that and to make the role of the municipal politician one that is larger in scope and more substantial in terms of a job.

I think almost all around Ontario the day has long since gone when someone went once a week to a municipal meeting and thereby

discharged all of his or her duties as a municipal politician. In many of our municipalities, I would say the job of a municipal politician is much like that of a member of this Legislature. It is time-consuming. There is a lot of committee work involved. It is a full-time job. It is no longer a part-time occupation. It demands a great measure of stability. One thing a three-year term does bring to the municipal political scene is that stability.

Many people on municipal councils have been saying for some time that there is an odd time sequence involved in a two-year term. There is a period of about six months to a year learning the position and then another six months to a year thinking about the next set of elections. Unfortunately, that leaves little time in the middle to develop policies and programs and to implement the ideas many municipalities are into these days.

One of the positive sides of a three-year term, in my view, is that it brings a measure of stability to municipal politics, which often is as complicated as provincial or even federal politics these days. There is some time for planning, some time to learn new roles and some time, not just to think about new policies and programs for one's municipality but also during which one can actually implement and then assess policies before one goes back to the political process.

I am relatively satisfied that a three-year term does not do any great negative things. In other words, some of the hyperbole that surrounds this kind of debate really does not serve us well.

This bill is rather simple in nature. That is, at once, a strength and a weakness. I would have preferred to have seen a piece of legislation which offered something that came closer to the diversified nature of municipal politics in Ontario. Unfortunately, it does not do that. Some of my colleagues are going to speak about that aspect of this legislation, not at great length but with great sincerity.

Mr. Foulds: And with great insight.

Mr. Roitenberg: Is that a promise?

Mr. Breaugh: It is not in the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program but, yes, it is a promise.

The municipal organizations are not of one mind on this proposal. Municipal politicians, who are of many different stripes and thoughts on this matter, are not unified on it. From my point of view and that of my party, it is a sensible, rational way for us to proceed by putting into place a three-year political term.

Most of our municipalities, and in particular all of our larger urban municipal councils and school boards, will be well served, in fact better served, by this three-year term. It is my opinion, one that is shared by most people in my caucus, that it will do little damage to the political process even in small rural areas where it is easier to have an election.

That simply recognizes that in a community like my own, the city of Oshawa, where people are expected to run for municipal council at large, that is city-wide, and the city's population is now around 115,000 people, it is very difficult for an individual to become known and to participate in the political process on that basis by himself.

I suppose politics in such a community is much more akin to provincial politics in scope and size. It is difficult for an individual to run for council unless he is prepared to get organized well in advance and to run almost a provincial political style of campaign.

In many of our other areas, for example in Brock township, there are smaller geographical areas involved and much smaller population bases involved; so there it is still possible for a rural Ontario politician to function without a great team and a great organization and a great deal of expense.

Mr. Samis: They have a great mayor in Brock.

Mr. Breaugh: There is a great mayor in Brock township; Mr. MacPhail is an excellent person, recognized by all those within the region of Durham. It is to this Legislature's great shame that he has never had the opportunity to join us here, although he did try on numerous occasions.

Mr. Samis: And may again.

Mr. Breaugh: And may again.

The bill is simplistic. It does not do many of the things that we would like to see surrounding municipal elections these days. I am told there will be some legislation forthcoming at a subsequent date which will deal with those matters we have long asked for.

At the very minimum we would like to see some opportunity to apply at the municipal level those things that now apply provincially and federally: some form of disclosure and perhaps in some instances a kind of full-tilt election expenses process. There are all kinds of alternatives there. Another of my colleagues later in the debate hopes to have the opportunity to put before the House an amendment to the bill which will address itself to parts of that problem.

In closing, we find that the legislation in general is supportable. It will provide some measure of stability for most of our municipal councils and school boards. It is the consensus within our caucus that it will do no damage to those areas where there is probably not a great deal of reason for making any change to the length of the term of municipal office.

In the course of the debate we hope to offer an opportunity to some of our members to express opposing views on the matter, because we do recognize they are legitimate. It is slightly amusing to listen this evening to some speakers, particularly on the Conservative side and particularly the member who led off, speak strongly in favour of a three-year term. I had the opportunity to listen to him just a short time ago speaking strongly against the three-year term.

When we see the Conservative government in Ontario with glacial speed adopting simple, common sense ideas like this three-year term it does give us some small measure of hope.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, it is unusual for a whip to get up and speak on a bill, and the only reason I am—

Mr. Riddell: Why? Why is it unusual?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I haven't even started yet. Why is the honourable member giving me trouble already? Could I ask the opposite members to try to forget for a moment that I am the whip and to regard me as just a regular member? I want to speak to the bill because I have an interest in it.

Some of the members sitting in the House tonight, who were probably sitting in the House when this matter was brought up some three, four or five years ago, probably would not remember it because as is normal they were probably sleeping or not paying attention. However, some of the members will recall that this matter was discussed in amendments to the Municipal Elections Act—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Wait for it, wait for it. For goodness' sake, I haven't even started yet; let me say what I want to say. I have been kind to them, for goodness' sake.

Mr. Speaker: Will the minister address his remarks to the bill, please.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I am attempting to, Mr. Speaker. I am trying to address myself to it.

Amendments to the Municipal Elections Act came up three or four years ago, and some of the members may recall the matter of whether the term would be two years or three years was

addressed then. At that time I took a certain amount of pride in the fact that I opposed my government in its bill regarding a two-year term. As a matter of fact, I sided with the opposition, which was suggesting a three-year term. I mention that with sort of self-gratification, because it has finally come into being in this bill. It is something I have supported for many years, particularly since I was a councillor serving in the city of Mississauga.

Some of the members in the third party have never experienced that, so they will not know what I am talking about. Having been a member of the council of the city of Mississauga, I know what I am talking about. I was there for a few years and I was fortunate enough to be elected—
8:30 p.m.

Mr. Foulds: You're experienced but you still don't have any knowledge.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: For goodness sake why don't you sit down and listen for a while? My remarks might not be very important to you, but will you at least give me the satisfaction of saying them?

When I was a councillor I was fortunate enough to be elected at the time the region of Peel was formed. At that time it was a three-year term, so I had the experience of being elected and serving only under three-year terms. I learned the value of having a year to learn my way around, and I doubt there is anybody in this House who served on a municipal council who took less than that to learn his way around in his first time in politics. I had the benefit of finding my way in the first year and having a couple of years to apply whatever skills I had as a municipal councillor.

Mr. Mancini: I think your limousine has gone.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: There are 10,000 comedians out of work and you are still trying.

Mr. Laughren: Nobody takes you seriously.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Don't take me seriously. I don't care. I want to say this because I was there and you poor fellows were not.

Mr. Foulds: Carry on. Great speech.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: May I?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I won't get mad, and I ask members opposite to remember that I don't get mad, I get even.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: We might well remember that.

At any rate, what I am trying to say is that I feel sincerely from the experience I had on council that a three-year term as a minimum is very necessary. Certainly I think some of the members on the Liberal side who have probably had more experience in municipal councils will agree that a two-year term is not really sufficient to learn the art of politics, if that is the best way to describe it, to have the experience to do some good and to contribute to the action necessary on a municipal council. I take a certain amount of pride in supporting that and in saying that I have had this view since I arrived here in 1975. I continue to have this view and I certainly do support it.

Someone mentioned that there is a certain amount of benefit in having elections more often because it is democracy in action if we have them every two years. I suppose the same logic would tell us that if we have them every year it is even more democratic. I just do not believe that because—

Mr. McClellan: Neither does anybody else.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: No, of course they don't.

Mr. Breaugh: You are so far right it isn't even funny.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: That's right. I have not heard anybody disagree; I must be right this time. Is that right? You have not disagreed yet.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Oh God, they are mouthy tonight, aren't they?

I do find that the experience in municipal elections, and it is probably worse in school boards than it is for—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, do you have any control over the House at all and could you exercise it, please?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: The point I am trying to make is that I do not think the argument that the lesser the term the higher the turnout is effective at all. My friend the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) has mentioned that the turnout in municipal elections is somewhere between 20 and 25 per cent and that is under a two-year term. I suppose I could make the argument that with a longer term perhaps the voting populace would take it more seriously and maybe we would get a larger turnout. I do not expect that that is going to be so. I do not think it is going to

change very much, so I really do not think the turnout in elections should be a basis for the term.

I have to mention this because a great many of my caucus are not very happy about this particular move.

[Applause]

Hon. Mr. Gregory: There's one.

This has been expressed, and we have done a great deal of—I confess that in our caucus we have not been entirely unanimous in our discussions about this matter. Certain of our members—

Mr. Swart: That is why the whip is speaking.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: No. The whip is speaking because he feels rather strongly about this.

Mr. Speaker: Would you just address your remarks to me.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I merely wanted to confess to the members opposite that our caucus has not been entirely unanimous in the discussions of this. However, as is typical of Conservative unity, we will probably all take a similar position on this matter. I can sympathize with the rural members.

Mr. Sargent: Time, time.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: The member for Grey-Bruce should wait for it. He will have lots of time to get up and speak later. He can hammer me and I will listen.

I feel some sympathy with members from rural ridings. For some reason, the local councils, whether they are reflecting the views of their voters or whether they are reflecting what they seem to see as the view of their voters, do not see a three-year term as being feasible. I can see this viewpoint of these rural members, but I think that for the majority of people of Ontario this has to be the most intelligent way to go.

I do feel that even the rural members in our caucus are ready to support this bill even though it is not totally reflective of their municipal councils or of their local school boards. We feel it is important, certainly in a rural area like Mississauga East, that the members of council have a sufficient term to learn their trade, to be able to apply their trade and to be able to pass important bylaws. To do the best for Mississauga, they need a longer term, and certainly I would support that 100 per cent as I have right along.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to let me speak. I know the opposition did not appreciate that. They do not think I should have a viewpoint at all. However, I think we have said what we had to say. Thank you.

Mr. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a few comments on the bill extending the length of the term of office on a municipal level from the two-year period to a three-year period. I know that as previous speakers have mentioned there is not necessarily unanimity among those who are in the various levels of public life as to whether a three-year term should be adopted.

However, I speak from practical experience, having sat on a municipal council for six years back in the earlier days when even a one-year term was fairly common in many municipalities. Seeing how more and more complex municipal business has become as the years went by, I think it is reasonable to assume that a three-year term would be far more advantageous in attracting better candidates.

Also, I think it would be better for the educational process for the newly elected candidate. He generally cannot pick up any experience through book learning. It is sort of an on-the-job training experience. He very often does not become effective until after at least one year in office. That means one half of the two-year term was solely an exercise in learning rather than one in being productive. I cannot speak for all members in elective office because there are some who catch on to the process quite quickly and, as a result, become very adept after an extremely short period of time.

However, while we are amending the Municipal Elections Act, I think the minister should have expanded that act. Instead of dealing solely with a three-year term, he should have had built into the act some of the procedures now present in provincial and federal elections, that is, there should be some limitation put on the expenditures of individuals at the municipal level.

8:40 p.m.

It is nothing unusual, as has been mentioned by my colleague, to find that \$100,000 is spent on running for elective office here in the city of Toronto. Naturally, Toronto being a big municipality, we can expect that expenditures are going to be substantial, but the smaller municipalities do not necessarily have that. However, there should still be certain limitations put on the amount an individual can spend.

I have introduced a private member's bill that put on a limitation. I do not intend to make any more mention of that, but I think it is incumbent on the legislators to make the battle fairly even so that the individual who has limited financial resources has the same opportunity of running

for public office as does the one who is backed either by those who have greater financial resources or by machines such as we see on the US political scene. I think there should be accountability as far as municipal elections are concerned. The individual should submit to all the procedures, and perhaps more procedures than we have in our provincial Election Finances Reform Act, so that the battle is an even fight rather than giving the individual who can raise the most money a distinct advantage.

We find that at the provincial level when we see one minister spending \$125,000 to get elected and some others who are present in the House here spending no more than 15 or 20 cents a voter. I should not say so small an amount, but probably no more than \$1 per elector in the riding. I think that is unfair. I would certainly like to see accountability in municipal elections in addition to the three-year term. All elective offices should have the principle of accountability.

I would also suggest to the House that even though election time has been moved up substantially, if we want to get people to the ballot box, the government will have to change the election day and have voting in a warmer weather month than it is at present. I can recall one election in Windsor when there was such a heavy snowfall that a lot of people could not get out to vote. That is completely unfair. We all know that in September possibly it will be at least fairly warm and the weather in itself would encourage individuals to vote in addition to the candidates who are running.

I bring these points up knowing they are not in the bill but hoping the minister or the ministry will take those suggestions under consideration and introduce some type of legislation to put controls on municipal election expenses as we do in the provincial and/or federal field.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I want to say a few words on Bill 10 which is before us at this time. I realize this bill is going to pass. All three parties seem to be on side on this. I was a bit surprised when the announcement of this bill was made last summer by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing that he was going to go for a three-year term. I was surprised in a sense and in a sense I was not because I realize that the government last year, as it had been for two or three years, was under tremendous pressure from municipal politicians. They wanted more revenue to be given to them. The government did not want to do that so it thought it would do a complete flip-flop and give them a three-year term.

I suggest the arguments that have been heard tonight and which we will be hearing more about—such as, “We need three-year terms to get programs completed,” “It will save money for municipalities and for candidates” and “We will have better planning,” and all that sort of thing—are really very secondary to the political implications of this. The fact is that the government, and perhaps all of us in all the parties, want to please a certain percentage of our supporters, those municipal politicians. All of us, in all parties, have felt some pressure. Therefore, we have this bill before us because that pressure was exerted most strongly on the government.

In the few minutes I am going to take, I want to put forward a bit on the other side of this bill. I realize that in doing that I may get more heckling from my own colleagues than I get from the opposition or the government, but I think there are some things that should be said about this.

I think it is probably true to say there is a minority viewpoint among municipal politicians who think we should continue with the two-year term. I am not sure it is a minority. It may even be a majority of the politicians who feel there should be a two-year term. I am quite satisfied that there is a large minority in this House, regardless of how they vote, who also feel that a two-year term should continue. However, the bill, as we know, is going to pass.

I wonder why the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs is not here tonight. Members will remember how strongly he spoke. I guess he is not here because he cannot do the flip-flop as easily as the parliamentary assistant can do and so he is not going to be here tonight to take part.

Mr. Haggerty: Which way are you going to vote? Two years ago you voted—

Mr. Swart: I have never done anything other than support the two-year term for municipal councils. I know that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario at its convention last August overwhelmingly supported the three-year term against the two-year term. I suggest that may not be completely representative of the feelings of councils of this province.

Many members will know that a survey was taken back in 1975, which is a number of years ago. It was a very detailed survey taken by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. They sent out questionnaires to 793 municipalities and 455 replied. That was a 57.3 per cent response. Of those municipalities, 383 voted in favour of the two-year term. Only 70 municipali-

ties voted in favour of the three-year term. When that goes out and the councils themselves vote on it, that is perhaps about as good an indication as one can get. I concede there may have been some changes in views since that time, but I suggest if the same kind of survey were taken now, one would find that a great many municipalities in this province, perhaps a majority, are still in favour of the two-year term.

8:50 p.m.

I want to deal with three or four of the arguments that were put forward on the issues that were raised. They say there would be longer-term planning in the municipalities if there were three-year terms. There may well be. There would be more planning if there were five-year terms or if there were seven-year terms. I just want to point out that the average municipal life expectancy of a person elected to a municipal council is about seven years. There is a less than a one-third turnover in municipal elections. Therefore, there is a tremendous amount of continuity, but there is the opportunity for new municipal councillors to come in and bring in new life. I say it is important to have new municipal councillors to bring in new life. There is that continuity and yet they have to have new blood coming in.

It was stated that it is going to cost more. Of course there are going to be more expenditures if municipal elections occur every two years instead of every three years, but that is the price we pay in a democracy. We could have provincial and federal elections at longer periods of time and save money on it, but if we really believe in accountability to the public, then we have to have elections fairly frequently and that cost is incurred. There are more expenditures to municipal councillors in running every two years rather than every three years. That has already been covered. My colleague the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) has constantly raised the issue of an election expenses act for municipal people.

We are concerned about equality. As proposed by the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. Newman), we could put limits on the expenditures and have an election expenses act like the provincial and federal acts, so there is compensation for those who run for public office and who are serious about being elected.

They say that more experience is good. Perhaps it is good. I was rather interested in the comments in the Archer study on the Niagara Peninsula which was done by Bill Archer, whom all the members who have been around for a

while will know. He had a long term. He strongly recommended the two-year term be continued and he made these comments:

"The commission strongly recommends that the two-year term of office should be continued as it is more concerned with ability than with longevity. Politicians who are going to accomplish anything can do it within a two-year term." That comes from an experienced politician. Experience is important and continuity is important, but as I stated, new blood is also important on municipal councils and there is more opportunity to get it with a two-year term.

They say there will be more turnover at elections. I have already discussed that. They talk about voter turn-out. They think there will be more voter turn-out with a three-year term. I think we have to analyse a bit further rather than just say that somehow if we have an election every three years more people will turn out at that election than will if we have an election every two years.

I suggest that the reverse is true. People do not turn out at municipal elections to a very large extent because, generally speaking, there are no political parties running. They are often voting for individuals whom they do not know. They do not know their policies. If we have elections every three years with less accountability back to the voters, fewer people will turn out rather than more. It depends on the consciousness of the voters, and the voters will be more conscious of their municipal councils if they elect them every two years than if they elect them every three years.

Simply, the crux of why I feel strongly about the two-year term instead of the three-year term is that the two-year term is more democratic. There is more accountability when people have to go back to seek election every two years. Whether it is a provincial government or a federal government or a municipal government, the people get something just before an election. That is when governments give. If a federal election was only six months away, Trudeau would be lowering the interest rates, make no mistake about it, but he has another couple of years to go. Then he will start mending fences about six months or a year before the next election rolls around.

That is typical of governments. If one has a longer term, there will be less accountability. There is 50 per cent more opportunity if one has elections every two years rather than three years for people who want to run for municipal office. It is that simple; there is 50 per cent more opportunity.

I conclude by saying I admit it will not be a catastrophe if this bill is passed. Municipal government will go on, but we will have lost a little bit of democracy. Local government will be a little further away from the people than it is now and the cynicism that pervades governments generally will be a bit further enhanced by what we are going to do.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few comments about Bill 10. I have mixed feelings about it. Coming from a rural community, I share some of the concerns the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) mentioned about a two-year versus a three-year term. Many of my caucus members have the same concern, but there is also the other aspect that has been mentioned by the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) and the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) that there should be consideration of the three-year term.

I hold the riding of Wellington-Dufferin-Peel. The Peel section is in support of the three-year term. The other two thirds of my riding is in support of the two-year term. I have mixed emotions about it, because regardless of which way I go I cannot win. Having served on my municipal council for several years, I feel I have a great deal of support for the two-year concept. I feel there is much merit in what the member for Welland-Thorold has just spoken about.

At the same time, I feel the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has mixed emotions because apparently it makes one decision when it has a public meeting in Toronto, then, when there is a private meeting with each individual council making a decision, when maybe there is a little more pressure, it reverses its stand. So I am not sure about that.

As a member of this Legislature, I feel I have the right to express my concerns about going from a two- to a three-year term. I am not in favour of it and yet I am not opposed to it. I have mixed emotions. I accept the views expressed by the parliamentary assistant to the minister. I feel, contrary to the member for Waterloo North's statement that we should have the minister here, that we on this side have a great deal of confidence in our parliamentary assistants. When we appoint them, we appoint them to do a job and this is typical of a parliamentary assistant representing his ministry and doing an excellent job. I want to give credit to the parliamentary assistant for doing an excellent job tonight.

I would also like to take exception to a remark made by the member for Waterloo North. I

have a great deal of respect for him but I would like to draw the attention of the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock), who is busy reading now, to the remark made by the member for Waterloo North a few minutes ago pertaining to Cantrakon. I feel a little offended by this remark because Cantrakon was originally intended to go in my riding of Wellington-Dufferin-Peel. Because of opposition from the New Democratic Party and some Liberals, it did not go there. It went into another riding. That bothers me.

The member for Waterloo North made a remark about our minister being involved in this. I think he should consult with the member for Grey and ask his opinion on this because I think he is directly opposite to the member for Waterloo North's viewpoint on this basic issue. This may be once, but it is going to happen again. I feel on this occasion, with the Cantrakon issue, the member for Grey was right on. I hope in future the member gives consideration to his viewpoint and mine when we are discussing concerns about the Niagara Escarpment that affect our constituents.

9 p.m.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Just ignore the interjections please.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: The only reason I brought it up was because that party's member introduced it earlier.

Mr. Speaker: Back to the bill now.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Yes, sir. In conclusion, I would like to mention the fact that I think the comments of the member for Welland-Thorold in opposition to what the member for Oshawa said just a few minutes earlier, maybe express the concerns of all the members of this Legislature, that regardless of politics, this is one of the areas where one is never right or never wrong. It is kind of a mixed deal and hopefully we can come out with something that is acceptable to the majority of municipalities in Ontario and certainly to the constituents, the voting public, so that in some way we are making the right decision tonight.

I would assume members of the three parties have different views. I do not think it is a matter of one party having one strong sentiment in favour of one issue and another being opposed to it. I think many members in the three parties have concerns. I hope the decision we reach tonight is in the best interests of the people of this province.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the debate concerning Bill 10. I know you are feeling pretty cross today, Mr. Speaker, so I will try to stick to the contents of the bill and I will not stray the way the chief government whip and some of the other members did.

I see the chief government whip has left. I know that while he was giving his speech his limousine was running and that they were waiting for him, ready to zoom him to Mississauga East.

This bill has been debated in several forums around Queen's Park. I can recall when the private bills committee received a brief and a bill from the city of Windsor concerning the extension of the municipal term from two years to three years. At that time we had a minority government and I believe the majority of the committee voted in favour of that bill. I cannot recall who the New Democratic Party members were, but they joined with us in supporting the mayor of Windsor and his municipal council and we voted in favour of extending the municipal term from two to three years.

The government did not move on that suggestion and that honest gesture made by the private bills committee, and the government members on the committee gave us 101 reasons why these people involved in municipal politics should sit for two years and not for three.

Frankly, I do not understand why the government has brought in the bill. I really do not know why they have changed their minds. They certainly have not given us any reasons yet this evening in the debate as to why they have changed their minds. But I suspect they detect that they will be able to derive some measure of political credit for this particular bill.

Mr. Speaker, you and I know that this government, this Conservative Party that rules Ontario, does not do a single thing. They take no initiatives whatsoever, except for my friend the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) who is here chatting with me this evening. He is one of the few over there who does things because he honestly believes what he is doing is correct. But all the rest of them do not undertake any initiatives whatsoever unless they see an underlying political credit to the whole thing.

I listened very intently to the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. J. M. Johnson) and I thought he made some good points; yes sir, indeed. However, he was talking about a different subject matter altogether; it had nothing to do with Bill 10. I want to tell the member

that Bill 10 extends the municipal term from two years to three years and has nothing to do with Cantrakon.

I have discussed this matter with some of the municipal officials in my riding. I represent 12 municipalities. I have to say to the members of the House that some of the municipal officials are concerned about the extension in the term. I say some are concerned. I do not think I ran into any municipal officials or talked to any municipal officials who were outright against this particular measure, or who spoke to me in emphatic terms or asked me to vote against this bill.

I personally see this as an advantage to the municipalities, whether they are small or large. Frankly, I do not agree with the thought that large municipalities need an extra year, because they have planning problems and all kinds of projects under way, etc., and, therefore, need the extra year for continuity.

Small municipalities have the same planning problems, on a different scale but all relative, as the large municipalities. These million-dollar sewage projects, million-dollar waterline projects and things of that nature, cause small municipalities to have the same planning problems as the large municipalities. In that regard, I think it would be somewhat helpful for these municipalities and these officials to have the three-year extended term.

As we look around different jurisdictions, we know that in the United States many of the municipalities have four-year terms. I do not see any less democracy in those states or those cities because of the four-year term. I do not think we will see any less democracy in our municipal government by extending this provision to the municipalities.

I have seen occasions where, because of the personalities of different people elected to the same council, because of these different personalities and the different issues that come up, the work of the council just grinds to a halt and comes to a standstill. On those rare occasions, yes, the extended term would not be as beneficial to the municipalities and to the general public as it otherwise would be. But for the most part, I believe the municipal officials to be decent, honest people who are elected to serve and to do the best they can for their constituents. On those merits alone I think it is enough to support the extension of this term.

I did want to say a little bit more about the chief government whip, but I do not want to be provocative this evening. I know other members wish to speak and time is running short.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I rise to express some serious concerns about Bill 10. I do not do this lightly. I suppose I was in a position somewhat similar to that of the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. J. M. Johnson), who saw arguments on both sides of the issue. I listened very carefully to what that member said and realized he was unable to come to a resolution, or at least I could not find a resolution in his statement. I have been able to come to a resolution.

I owe a debt to the chief government whip in that I was not exactly sure of what position I should take on this bill. I did a lot of thinking about it until the chief government whip got up and said he was in favour of the three-year term. Then I knew right away what my position should be. I listened very closely to the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) and the comments he made. I am glad to say I am able to agree with his view that this bill is too simple. It does not deal with the vast differences among municipalities in this province.

I represent a riding that has 25 or 26 municipalities within its boundaries. Those municipalities range from the township of Thompson, which I think has only 60 ratepayers—I think it is one of the smallest in Ontario—to the largest municipality in my riding, the township of Michipicoten, or Wawa, which has approximately 5,000 people.

9:10 p.m.

I know the Speaker is very familiar with that community. He will understand the municipalities I represent are small and do not have the same kinds of problems that larger municipalities may face in relation to the length of term. They do not have the kinds of problems that candidates would have in elections, the costs they face and the need to have a longer term in order to deal more effectively as municipal councillors. That is not a problem for most rural municipalities and I regret that this bill does not take into account the differences among the municipalities of this province.

It appears this bill is the result of pressure from those large municipalities upon this government and that here we have another example of the large running roughshod over the small in Ontario, and I regret that.

There have been a lot of arguments presented this evening as to why we should have fewer elections at the municipal level. The argument has been made that in large municipalities it is coming to a position where it costs a great deal to run in a municipal election, that in Metro

Toronto it is as costly to run a municipal election as a provincial election, or more costly perhaps. For that reason they argue we should therefore have fewer elections.

If one were to follow that argument to its illogical conclusion, one should say: "All right, because it costs a great deal for elections, we should have fewer and fewer elections at all levels. What we should do is elect mayors for life. It would certainly cut down on the cost and we would not have the situation where municipal politicians were having to run from one election to another without the opportunity to learn the job." Those are the kinds of arguments that have been made this evening.

I and my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart)—

Mr. Piché: How much longer are you going to be?

Mr. Wildman: I was going to be brief, Mr. Speaker, but obviously the member for Cochrane North wants me to go on at greater length. I know many of the municipalities in his area do not support this bill. I know many of them believe small rural municipalities do not need a three-year term.

It appears that my colleague from Welland-Thorold and myself, perhaps along with the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel, are a minority here speaking in favour of accountability at the municipal level. I do not want to be provocative because I know members have thought about this legislation very carefully. But I really do believe that at the municipal level we should maintain as close a contact between the ratepayers and their elected officials as possible and that there should be as great an opportunity as possible for accountability.

I do not think the arguments that have been raised in favour of extension of term really relate to what we understand to be democracy. We are not talking about a jurisdiction that carries out the kinds of budgets that are carried on at the provincial or federal level. I think it has no relevance to argue that because provincial politicians usually have a four-year term municipal politicians should have a longer term too.

I hope many members, especially those representing rural ridings, will think very carefully about this legislation and will reconsider the arguments that have been made. It just does not make sense to say that because elections cost a lot we should have fewer elections. Democracy can be expensive and it is valuable. It also does not make sense to say the two-year term is too short and people do not have time to learn the job and be effective members.

I think over the history of this province we have had many effective municipal politicians and all or most have had two-year terms. For that matter, in the jurisdiction south of the border, the United States Congress deals with a two-year term and to argue that a small municipality must have a three-year term in order to be effective raises the question as to how on earth a congressional representative can represent his district effectively with only a two-year term.

Interjection.

Mr. Wildman: I hear from the other side that the congressmen do not represent their districts effectively, that they are very ineffective. Thank you very much. I wonder if the parliamentary assistant can really say that every congressman in the United States is ineffective and that his ineffectiveness is only attributable to his two-year term. That is an interesting argument and one that I am sure many political scientists would like to dispute with the parliamentary assistant across the way.

Finally, in response to the comments that have been made about the absence of the minister when legislation dealing with municipal government is presented, I would say the more he is absent the better. I would hope his parliamentary assistant will be able to continue to carry on the hard work he has been asked to do by his minister, especially after the kind of comments he has made about the United States Congress. If this parliamentary assistant can make that kind of learned assessment, that is what we need and we do not need the rather simplistic views of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Mr. Eakins: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate—

The Deputy Speaker: I am sorry. I did not cast my eyes to the right.

Mr. Eakins: You did not see him, Mr. Speaker, so I will carry on.

The Deputy Speaker: No, we must continue with the rotation. The member for Hastings-Peterborough.

Mr. Pollock: Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into this debate and I assure you I will not take long. I have 34 municipalities in my riding and although I have never taken a poll of those municipalities I am sure the majority of them would be supportive of a two-year term.

Time will tell whether we are going to obtain a bigger voter turnout with a three-year term. I believe, as the member for Welland-Thorold

(Mr. Swart) said, we are losing just a little bit of our democracy when we go to a three-year term. Those are all my comments.

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to make some comment on this. I want to commend a number of the members of all parties who have spoken on this because I think it is very important indeed.

I have had some municipal background as a councillor and as a mayor and I can express the feelings of many of the smaller community municipal people in this province. In fact, I appreciate very much that my leader has given me the responsibility of speaking for some of the smaller communities of this province as far as rural municipalities are concerned.

I had the pleasure of serving on the last complete review of the Municipal Elections Act, which I believe was in 1968 or 1969, when the late Mayor Albert Campbell and myself represented the mayors of Ontario on that review, which was under the Minister of Municipal Affairs at that time, Darcy McKeough. At that time we opted for the two-year term. Of course, there have been some changes since then, but I feel tonight that many things have not changed in many parts of rural Ontario, and I feel that many parts of rural Ontario are shortchanged.

9:20 p.m.

Many of the discussions in this House centre on the needs of the large cities, the large urban municipalities, and we have a tendency to forget the smaller communities. As the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) mentioned, there are two distinct differences and I would like to see the minister address himself to some of the concerns of the rural people versus the large municipalities.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Is the member for Cochrane North disturbing the present speaker?

Mr. Piché: I represent a lot of people and I know they don't need that three-year term.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The member will have an opportunity to participate in the debate shortly and we will be looking forward to his comments.

Mr. Eakins: One of the concerns is that the urban municipalities provide more opportunity for full-time service because they receive greater remuneration, the responsibilities are different, therefore many of the people who serve on a

large metro council give pretty well their full time. But in some of the smaller rural communities they cannot give their full time, and certainly they have to depend on other employment.

We are finding that when election time comes around many of the council positions are filled by acclamation and there are some in which they have to have additional nomination meetings in order to fill the post. I know many have said to me that on a three-year term they are going to have to reconsider; they enjoy serving the community, but they are not sure they can commit themselves to those three years.

The county of Haliburton, for instance, has been almost unanimous in opposing the three-year term. I believe there are only two on that council who favoured the three-year term. There is one county council that is almost unanimous in opposing this. I think we have to take into consideration the needs and the concerns of many of the smaller communities of this province, and I would say that my preference would be for the two-year term.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I welcome this bill and I believe I am joined by a great many municipal councillors and by the thoughtful reports of several commissions that have examined regional government in this province in the last few years. I think we do have to recognize that times change. I am not sure whether the government, in bringing in this legislation almost 10 years after they set the two-year term, have recognized that times changed or whether they have simply recognized the vibrations they hear when they put their ears to the ground. Up until a year ago the two-year term was holy writ to the government. All of a sudden they have found a lot of arguments in favour of the three-year term.

We have discussed the pros and cons of the two-year versus the three-year term in our caucus over the past decade as well, and we have come to the conclusion that in this day and age the three-year term will be conducive to better government. Mr. Speaker, you have heard some of the pros and cons that were tossed back and forth in our caucus and in the House, but if you look at the complexity of the issues that are facing municipal governments today and the greater responsibilities that are being assigned to local governments with delegation of powers and with new legislation, it appears the consensus is that a three-year term will produce more democratic and better government.

Under the present system most councillors spend their first year learning their jobs and their second year politicking to get re-elected. They do not learn very much in that time. With the longer term, they can consider long-term plans and, as they gain knowledge and experience, can also become more independent of municipal officials who should be their servants and not their masters. These are important considerations with many of the larger governments.

A longer term may also attract better qualified candidates who are prepared to make the position a full-time job. Municipal office should not be just a prep school for back-benchers in the Legislature. It should be a career equal to a career as a member of the Legislature or a member of Parliament but, with the short two-year term, few people will be attracted to it as a career. The remuneration may be considerably less if it is considered a short-term leave of absence from another occupation. However, if it is a full-time career, the remuneration will be improved.

There are all these reasons why we should have a three-year term. It always seemed illogical to me that provincial and federal members should have to be assessed by the electorate only every four or five years, while local councillors and school boards are expected to be accountable every two years.

As to accountability, I believe all elected persons should be accountable to the electorate in more ways than a vote every few years. I think accountability can be better achieved through public meetings, through opportunities for citizens to appear as deputations before councils and committees, and through questions they can pose to their councillors in accountability meetings.

People have said this is a simple bill. It is simple in that it deals with only one aspect of municipal election reform. It has been put forward as a means of achieving better government, but it will not achieve better government unless it is accompanied by a package of other reforms that are badly needed in the municipal election field.

There must be laws to go along with it requiring disclosure of election expenses and contributions. There must be a limit to those contributions as well. I intend to propose an amendment to this bill to add that dimension. It would simply require candidates to itemize all expenditures over \$100 and to publish a list of the names and addresses of all contributors who

give \$100 or more in money, goods or services, and it would show the amounts of their contributions. If my disclosure amendment is adopted—

The Deputy Speaker: You had better speak to the bill.

Ms. Bryden: All right, I will speak about the amendment later. It could go into effect for next year's election and we would then have that as part of the package.

Another thing lacking in the package is the question of a municipal election finances reform act similar to the provincial Election Finances Reform Act which would control the level of contributions. I would hope it would also control the level of expenditures, which our present provincial act does not do. I do not think that should be an amendment to this bill. I think it should be a companion bill and I have placed a resolution on the Order Paper calling for such a municipal election finances reform act.

9:30 p.m.

Third, this bill should recognize a problem that has come to my attention from many cottage owners. They are, in effect, disfranchised from exercising their municipal vote, whether it is a two-year term or a three-year term, because voting day and the advance polls are after Thanksgiving weekend. If advance polls could be held on the weekend prior to Thanksgiving, all those cottage owners would have an opportunity to exercise their franchise and have a say in the affairs of the municipality in which they reside for a good part of the year and to which they pay taxes.

This is an amendment that should be brought in by the government. All it would require is moving the date of the election back to the fourth Monday in October, which would then allow for an advance poll the Thanksgiving weekend after nomination day. I urge the government to consider that as a companion election reform bill.

Finally, part of election reform and the three-year term in this municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, and probably in other regional governments, should be direct election of municipal councillors. The Robarts commission on Metro Toronto government in 1977 recommended a package of a three-year term, direct election of municipal councillors, a disclosure law, as I have suggested, and even giving municipalities the power to subsidize a percentage of election expenses, as is done at the

provincial and federal levels. That sort of a package should be part of this bill. My amendment on disclosure will bring in part of it.

I would like to see us consider this change to a three-year term as contingent on putting the other pieces of the jigsaw in place so that we have true electoral reform at the municipal level. It does not make sense just to change the term.

I can understand the concerns of many people who have spoken in the House here, including some of my colleagues, about the difficulty of making a uniform law fit all kinds of municipalities in this province. What we are doing tonight is saying that uniformity is more important than allowing a local option for municipalities, which may not find the three-year term as advantageous as the larger municipalities.

There are disadvantages to a lack of uniformity. We would have elections perhaps on different days around the province and people would have different lengths of office. I opt for uniformity myself, because I think it affects a larger proportion of the population to have the three-year term. But I can recognize the problems with the smaller municipalities. In a way, we are trading off a local option provision for them in favour of uniformity.

For those reasons I am supporting the bill and I will moving an amendment in committee.

The Deputy Speaker: The chair now recognizes the member for Cochrane North. No? Oh, I am sorry; the member for—

Mr. Piché: Mr. Speaker, I have been asked to speak and I will be very pleased to debate what we are talking about right now. But as you are probably aware—I do not why you mentioned my name—I am not part of the debate right now.

The Deputy Speaker: I'm sorry; the member for Huron-Middlesex.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, it is not difficult to distinguish between the members of this Legislature who represent urban areas and those who represent rural areas. The House may recall this government's obsession with imposing regional government throughout Ontario back in the 1960s and the early 1970s. The by-elections of 1973 in St. George and Huron-Middlesex put a stop to the further imposition of regional government in Ontario.

It is obvious to me that this government has the same attitude we heard expressed by the chief government whip, the member for

Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory), when he stated: "I do not get mad, I just get even." That is exactly what this government is doing in introducing this bill. It is going to try to get regional government in the rest of Ontario and, if it cannot do it by coming in the front door, it is going to do it by coming in the back door.

The municipal officials in Huron-Middlesex are very disturbed by the minister's acceptance of and obvious intention to act upon the recommendation of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to change the term of office of municipal councils from two to three years. I believe this recommendation is a result of pressure from the politicians of large municipalities and that, despite the pious reasons cited, their motives are mainly self-serving.

Mr. Piché: I agree fully. I will vote on your side.

Mr. Riddell: I hope this bill comes to a vote. It looks to me as if we have a little agreement on all sides of the House to retain the two-year term.

I hope the minister will pause long enough to consider the plight of small towns, villages and townships. In the comparatively few years that the two-year term has been in effect, it has become almost the norm to have no-contest elections in such municipalities. Over the same time, municipal business has become more and more time-consuming. In large municipalities, much of the added load has been turned over to staff and stipends for elected officials have become high enough to attract some well-qualified people.

In small municipalities, economics inhibit both wholesale hiring and attractive stipends. It has become difficult to find people who are able and willing to commit themselves to the required amount of time, away from their businesses and families, to serve on a municipal council for a two-year period, let alone a three-year period.

Municipal officials in Huron-Middlesex are not advocating a return to the one-year term, but they are vigorously protesting the proposed change from two to three years, as such a change can only exacerbate what is already a serious problem for all the smaller municipalities of the province.

Mr. Hennessy: Time.

Mr. Riddell: Are you going to speak on this? What do you represent? Whom do you represent?

Mr. Speaker: Will the honourable member please address the bill?

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I would support the amendment the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) intends to propose in connection with advance polls. There is no question the cottagers feel discriminated against when it comes to voting in municipal elections. They would certainly support a change in the advance polls to the Saturday before Thanksgiving. The present date requires a special trip in November which is expensive and quite often hazardous because of bad weather. I think we should give the cottage owners an opportunity to vote in the municipal election.

9:40 p.m.

Mr. Swart: I moved that amendment two years ago and you people voted against it.

Mr. Speaker: Now back to the bill.

Mr. Riddell: I will have to think that one over.

In closing, I want to reiterate that the municipal officials in small towns in Ontario do not favour extending the term of office to three years. Their belief and the belief of the people in those areas is that good councillors in local municipalities should expect their record of service to be assessed and approved every two years.

If one takes a look at the federal elections, one sees that over the last number of years there has been a federal election about every three years. If we deal with my own situation, I have run in elections practically every two years and it has not hurt me a bit. It has given the people of Huron-Middlesex an opportunity to show the confidence that they have in their elected member. They have had an opportunity to re-elect me every two years. It has not hurt me. It certainly has given the people of Huron-Middlesex an opportunity to put in the person they feel can best represent them here in the Legislature. I think the local municipal councillors should be assessed every two years as well. I have to speak for my municipal people and say that we support the retention of the two-year term.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I rise in the calm and sobriety of the evening to join in this debate of great repute. It is one of the most interesting debates I have seen in some time. We have had about one person from each party speak in favour of it, 45 from each speak against and we are going to pass the thing. All of Ontario should be here tonight to watch us in action.

I want to speak to all the renegades in each of the parties. I am proud of them all, but they are

all dead wrong. Alone in the front row, I stand proudly to support this bill. Let it be noted that I am alone in the front row. This is the same kind of support I had at the convention.

Mr. Speaker: Now back to the bill.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Two years ago I introduced a resolution to this Legislature asking for the three-year term, among other things. The day before the debate on my bill, the minister announced that he was against three-year terms and wanted to keep the two-year term and then he did not show up for the debate on my bill. Tonight, again, the minister has not shown up to debate the bill. There may be a causal connection between my presence in the House on this sort of topic and his absence; I am not sure at all.

Rather than speaking for any length of time, I do have handouts of my speech from two years ago that I would be happy to spread around to the members. I wanted the member for Huron-Middlesex to know that I rise with piety to speak with no self-interest, because those rumours about me running for the mayoralty of Toronto, and therefore having a vested interest in the three-year term, are premature.

Mr. Riddell: I didn't have you in mind, Richard, when I was speaking.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Thank you. You so seldom do.

I am sorry to see this debate fading into history, as it is, because I can no longer tell my version of the line that the member for Beaches-Woodbine gave about the learning process. I have learned that during the first eight months in municipal politics you learn the job, in the next eight months you do the job and in the final eight months you run for re-election. We will never be able to use that again with this being put into history, and that is one of my better lines. As most members know, there have not been many other very good ones.

Interjections.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It went over to the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh). It went over just as well when I used it two years ago and it is improving with age.

Mr. Ruston: I can see why you lost that leadership.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Ah, cruel.

Mr. Speaker, to be as brief as possible, as I know you would like me to be, I rise in support of this motion because it is important that we recognize the importance of municipal elections, the need to get down to work and to

handle the work of a municipal government for a longer period than that short two-year term, whether it is in Toronto, where the brutes who have been pushing this legislation through live, or whether it is people in rural Ontario, those people without power in this province, as we know, who have their work to do.

Accountability can be built into a three-year term. God knows, we believe it can be built into a four-year term.

Mr. Wildman: Well—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Except in the case of Algoma and one or two other ridings, which I will not add to the list.

I hope that in very short order this evening we will be able to deal with the amendment that I gather is coming forward and then pass this bill.

Mr. Sheppard: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give my feelings on behalf of Northumberland county council. Two thirds of my council support a two-year term. I was a trustee for 16 years; I had to run in an election every two years and I felt that a two-year term was adequate.

I rise to express my feelings on behalf of Northumberland county. They have sent me the odd letter. I have 15 municipalities, one of which has only 720 voters. I have four towns, the largest of which has a population of 12,000. Some of the four mayors in Northumberland county wish to have a two-year term, while others wish to have a three-year term.

I can sympathize with the desire of the larger cities for a three-year term so they can do some long-range planning, but I wish to express the feelings of my 15 municipalities, two thirds of whom support a two-year term, while the other third support a three-year term.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, I want to add a few comments to Bill 10, which will move municipal elections from two-year to three-year terms.

Listening to the debate tonight, I can understand why the minister is not here. If he were here tonight, it probably would be a free vote and the bill would be lost. That is certain from the sentiments expressed by members tonight.

I do have some reservations about it. I believe it was a couple of years ago that the Liberal Party moved an amendment to a Torontoill. We suggested at that time that it should be a three-year term. If I am not mistaken it was not supported by members of the New Democratic Party, the members to the left.

Although tonight there is a movement from a two-year term to a three-year term, I remember

from my days on council that when we moved from a one-year term to a two-year term we heard the same story: you cannot be accountable to the ratepayers.

From my experience on sitting on council—and I think it is still true today—persons who are elected to municipal councils are perhaps more accountable to the ratepayers or the taxpayers than are the members of this Legislature, because the press is right there to report night by night almost everything that may go on at a council meeting. There are also the very active ratepayers' associations and other groups of concerned citizens within a community who keep councillors well on their toes on certain issues.

I suggest that moving from a two-year term to a three-term does not improve accountability one bit. I think it is there; it has been there all the time. I just cannot buy some of the comments of some of the members who live in that area. I live close to the American border and I do like some of their forms of municipal politics and the performance of the local members of their municipal governments.

9:50 p.m.

When we look at this bill, I feel there should be other areas of election reform to provide some form of protection to the ratepayers and taxpayers of municipalities. At one time my experience on council was that many of the things were discussed in full with the general public. We had meetings throughout the communities, putting forward our views on certain capital expenditures. Today I find this is one of the areas that is not taken note of by local councillors, and particularly by regional councillors.

I think the amount of debt of many municipalities today is questionable. Many of them, if they went back 30 years, would be in receivership today because of the debt that is there. I think it is time we started to change the whole system of election reform in the Municipal Act to say that there should be referendums on public expenditure. The taxpayers should have a right to say what the expenditure is going to be.

Councillors can be elected for one, two or three years but, as long as they are not accountable in this particular area, then many municipalities are going to run into financial difficulties. I think of a particular municipality in my riding, the city of Port Colborne, and its huge expenditures in the past two or three years. This year those expenditures are going to catch up with it and the ratepayers are not going to be too happy about that.

I note the bill says "municipalities and boards." When I look at the word "boards," I think of the regional municipality of Niagara where we have police commissions that are not elected. They damn well should be elected, because they are not accountable to anybody. The police budget is getting to the point where almost every taxpayer in the area is up in arms about it.

I suggest that all boards should be elected, and particularly that the regional chairmen in a number of municipalities should be elected. The member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) brought up a good point when she said these persons on regional or metropolitan councils should be elected for three-year terms and by the people in the area. This is an area of concern to me.

There are many questions that could be thrown into debate on the bill. I support the bill in principle but, as has been stated by a number of the members who have spoken on it and expressed their concerns, perhaps there should have been an opening left in the bill, on the basis of the size and population of the municipality, to let the municipalities decide whether they want to move from a two-year to a three-year term. I think that option should have been left for smaller municipalities, saying it is up to them to decide by plebiscite or referendum whether to move from a two-year term to a three-year term.

I believe this Legislature sometimes takes too much power away from local municipalities. It can provide an avenue so they can move in that direction. The town of Fort Erie has changed the ward system so that all members of council now will be elected at large. I received a letter from them, saying they want the same election privileges that are given to provincial members, because it is going to cost them additional money to be elected at large. I regret that they moved from the ward system to election at large. I do not think they should have moved in that direction.

It has been mentioned here tonight by other members, and I have to agree with them, that there should be some control on election expenses when candidates are running for election locally, particularly for the heads of municipalities. In my area I find a number of them are spending a large amount of money to be elected as mayors. I suggest a ceiling should be applied for municipal elections.

As was mentioned tonight, it cost one mayoral candidate \$100,000 to get elected. That is almost up to what the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) spent, or beyond that. When any

mayor spends \$100,000 to get elected, there is some question or doubt about accountability. It just does not seem right to elect a person at a cost of \$100,000 for a job that may pay \$25,000, \$30,000 or \$40,000. It always leaves a question in my mind as to whether it is right, whether the ethics are there. I would support any amendment that would effect some control of municipal expenses at election time.

Perhaps elections in municipalities should be changed. Now the election is some time in November, I guess; maybe it should be changed to be in line with the fiscal year or the government budget in the spring of the year. Their year end is March 31 or something like that. I found it was a difficulty when I was a member of council, and I think it is more difficult for members today, to know just how much was coming back to the municipality in grants. It is always difficult.

At one time an elected person on council would have his municipal budget set by April of that year. In many municipalities the budget is not set until some time in June. I think the regional municipality of Niagara goes some time into July before it actually knows what the expenses are going to be and what the cost is to the ratepayers.

I suggest that there are many areas in which this bill could be improved and that we should improve the whole area of election reform and perhaps even areas of the Municipal Act. But I do support the bill in principle. With those comments, I think there should be a free vote tonight.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on this item because I think that in every politician's career certain issues come along periodically which by their nature divide politicians, divide constituents, arouse passions and cause an avalanche of letters, phone calls and a natural outburst of feelings. This is not one of those issues, I have found.

I have not received a single letter on this issue. I am waiting for a phone call, a telegram—anything. There is only thing I have received and I want to bring this to your attention, sir. C'est adressé au député de Cornwall du maire de Hearst, M. Fontaine. C'est très simple: "René, on compte sur vous ce soir."

I have great admiration for the members of this Legislature from the north. They pride themselves justifiably on their independence, their honesty, their forthright style, their willingness to stand up for the interests of the north and their constituents. I used to think that the

liberal Conservative member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché) was one of that breed. I talked to him tonight and he was candid, he was forthright, he was articulate; he said what he really felt about this issue.

Mr. Speaker: What does that have to do with the bill?

Mr. Samis: All right, to the bill. The Speaker gave the member for Cochrane North the opportunity to speak to the principle of the bill and unleash that torrent of passion and northern gut feeling and zeal so that his constituents would know that, even though he has a majority of only 200, he was in there fighting for them in Queen's Park. René, le télégramme est très simple: "On compte sur vous ce soir."

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the member for Cornwall (Mr. Samis) in his preliminary remarks really was referring more to matters such as beer in the ball park than he was to the matter of the two- or three-year term.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Beer in where?

Mr. Robinson: Where? Beer in the Cornwall ball park.

Mr. Samis: No, the Canadian National Exhibition.

Mr. Robinson: Oh, here. The member for Cornwall is taking a broader approach in his source of debate.

What we are trying to do tonight is to determine something that is measured in terms of the public interest and to determine where the public interest is best served as it relates to the length of time that municipal politicians serve between elections.

In Scarborough in the past three or four years there has been a wave of public interest in the length of municipal terms and that interest has gone hand in hand with a concern for reform in municipal campaign contribution accountability. It is fair to say that the community groups in Scarborough, many of them centred in my area and immediately north of it, are very greatly concerned and they want to have the opportunity to have accessibility to municipal politicians with at least the frequency they enjoy now. None the less, members of those same councils are much more interested in having the option or the ability to remain in office for three years.

10 p.m.

Members of council will offer the long-range planning arguments, will offer the cost of elections to the individual candidates without the benefit of any tax refund or any sort of a

reform or receipts as we have provincially. They have to run campaigns in many major metropolitan municipalities at a price tag that is higher than many of the campaigns that were waged to become members of this provincial Legislature.

The mayoral campaigns in Metropolitan Toronto, across the boroughs, and the board of control campaigns may cost anywhere from \$40,000 to \$50,000. Candidates and members of municipal councils can successfully argue that to be put up against that sort of burden every two years is indeed onerous. However, on the other side of the balance, it is interesting to note in the longer perspective that municipal councils, particularly in Metropolitan Toronto, have a major overhaul or a major rollover only about once every 10 years. There is some measure of tinkering at times. There are always a few changes, depending on retirements or depending on the particular nature of an issue in a particular location, but major reforms are really only accomplished about once every eight to 10 years.

With that in mind and, of course, bearing in mind the major costs accrued to the municipalities of running full elections every two years, I think it is fair to say that is also a cause for some concern. On balance, I am prepared to support the principle of the bill but I would have been happier had it come hand in hand with the municipal campaign contribution accountability reform.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, one cannot sit here for any period of time without feeling, as my colleague the member for Cornwall (Mr. Samis) felt, an urge which one cannot fight against to get up and participate in this debate. I must say to my colleague that if he knows something about winning with large majorities, if he had the majority that the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché) has and he had Fontaine looking over his shoulder as he has, he too would stay quiet in the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: And now to the bill.

Mr. Roy: As have many of my colleagues, I have supported the principle of this bill for some time and I am surprised that the member for Ottawa South (Mr. Bennett), having shown some enthusiasm, which is unusual for members of the cabinet on that side, to make a decision and decide to proceed with a three-year term, would not be here to take some delight and some satisfaction in getting such widespread support and dissension from all sides of the House.

He should be here for another reason as well. That is to see that the parliamentary assistant who is shepherding this bill through the House does not have a trip planned down south after commenting so uncharitably about the performances of the members of Congress of the United States. The parliamentary assistant should know that if the constitution of the United States was easier to amend, the members of Congress would have amended their constitution some time ago so the two-year term would be increased to a three, four, and maybe six-year term as the members of the Senate have in Washington.

I understand some of my colleagues whose ridings contain smaller municipalities have talked about these municipalities being concerned about having the two-year term increased to a three-year term. When my colleague the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) was talking about how popular he was and how the people in his riding enjoyed voting for him and returning him every two years, I thought he was mild and modest. That member is so popular that probably they would like to send him back every year if they had a chance.

I recall Darcy McKeough year after year refusing the request of the larger municipalities when they were asking to increase from a two-year to a three-year term. Of course, he had a very paternalistic approach to the process. He, as the godfather of all these municipalities, felt the democratic process would not be fair for them if we increased it to a three-year term. It was all right over at this level to have a four-year term, but municipal politicians must go back to the people every two years.

I find in some ways this discussion is somewhat paternalistic. As we look at these, what we call junior governments, it seems we take the approach that maybe these officials will not be following the democratic principle unless they go back to the people every two years. I say that in 1982 it is about time the term in most major municipalities be increased from two to three years. In fact, I would suggest it be increased even more than that, to possibly the same term as federal and provincial governments. Then federal, provincial and municipal would be at the same four-year term.

Some of my colleagues made some excellent points. Having accepted that we are increasing the term from two to three years there should be some thought given—and I know it is not part of this bill—to public funding of municipal elections. This would be just as we have at the

provincial level and at the federal level. In most major municipalities the cost of a municipal election certainly is as much, if not more in some areas, than running an election in a federal or provincial riding. I think there should be no doubt that should take place.

I see my colleagues are in agreement. The members opposite should talk to their Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and convince him this is a good thing. As my friend from London states, he is sometimes not clued in and they should help him. The funds they have in excess in that Big Blue Machine slush fund could be transferred to some of these municipal politicians.

I think another amendment should be brought forward. I am sorry the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) has left because when we are talking about responsibility and the election for members of local boards, I think it is high time as well that there be some flexibility in the remuneration for members of school boards. I think this clause that exists now that school board members are limited—

Mr. Cooke: That is the Education Act.

Mr. Roy: I know it is the Education Act; I know that. But still this should be brought in if we are talking about modernizing the process of municipal and local school board elections and about funding, and I am sure my colleagues over there can understand that.

The former leader of the New Democratic Party, the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy), mentioned recently in Ottawa—to his own detriment—that we should establish party politics at the municipal and the board level.

Mr. Wildman: It is already there.

Mr. Roy: It may be in that member's area, it is not in ours.

This is the type of development which may be attractive to some of my colleagues to the left, but most people would want to stay quiet with that issue. If the member for Ottawa Centre wants to start establishing party politics at the municipal level, this is an ingredient that is not necessary in the democratic process at that level. Even though I am hopelessly out of—what do you call it?—

Mr. Speaker: You are straying from the bill.

Mr. Roy:—straying from the bill—the fact is that we feel some other important major amend-

ments should be added to the three-year term to make the democratic process effective at the municipal and local school board level.

10:10 p.m.

Mr. Hennessy: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the two-year or three-year term is the answer.

Mr. Nixon: Do you want one year?

Mr. Hennessy: Maybe for the member opposite it's six months.

When I look back over it, there have been a lot of good arguments here this evening with regard to the two-year and three-year term. I served a two-year term and a three-year term as a member of council.

Mr. Eakins: That was too long.

Mr. Hennessy: That is why they put me here.

I did not think a three-year term accomplished very much. Some people run for council and look for a place to rest. During a three-year term, one does not see some people around until election year. That is the truth. So many members of council are carrying the majority of the work load in the council. By whose wisdom can we say that a three-year term will be more beneficial to the people?

Mr. Nixon: David Rotenberg, that's who.

Mr. Roy: Claude Bennett.

Mr. Hennessy: And the Pope.

Mr. Wildman: This has nothing to do with natural resources.

Mr. Hennessy: Do the members opposite want to speak or do they want me to speak? Just look at it, gentlemen—and the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden). It is very difficult in the rural areas, where there are small municipalities of 600 or 700 people, to ask someone to serve for three years when there is difficulty getting people to serve for two years. I think to have people for three years—

Mr. Van Horne: But on the other hand—

Mr. Hennessy: On the other hand—does the member know why I said it? It is a good line. Even though he does not speak good English, I still know what he said.

Mr. Laughren: How are you voting?

Mr. Hennessy: I will have to make up my mind how I am going to vote. I guess the member opposite is not going to vote.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to join in this debate. I am in favour of the three-year term. I make the observation that we are going to have a free vote and perhaps the whip from the other side should get his members

in or they might lose. I wondered why some of those back-benchers did not end up in the cabinet in the recent shuffle. I think the reason is that is where the real Tories are. The Premier (Mr. Davis) is afraid of those members back there.

I have received only one letter from my municipalities, but I think it shows that once the people in southwestern Ontario choose a member they stay with him for a great many years. I look at the member for Essex North (Mr. Ruston), who has been in his constituency for many years, the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini), who is starting a third term now, and the member for Elgin (Mr. McNeil), who has been here for approximately 20 years. In his constituency, and I happened to meet these people because our ridings overlap to some extent, Mr. J. B. Wilson of South Dorchester has been a councillor for 33 years. The former member for Kent-Elgin was in office for 22 years.

There is one dissenter in my riding, however, and I would like to read his letter. This is from Mr. George Mickle, a former mayor of the town of Ridgetown. It is addressed to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett):

"Dear Sir:

"Recently, I was told that legislation is being prepared to permit three-year terms for municipal officials. May I suggest that this be given very careful consideration by your officials and yourself? I think as far as large communities are concerned it has merit, but for small municipalities such as my town of Ridgetown, you will be creating problems.

"In a small community, it is usually very hard to get responsible citizens to accept municipal office because they have their own businesses to look after and cannot afford the time to act. One-year terms are all right. However, two-year terms are more difficult and three-year terms will be almost impossible. When we had one-year terms, we were able to persuade the office holder to go for a second term. Now, however, a three-year term will be almost impossible to get them to consider.

"Already, I had one of our best councillors tell me it would be necessary for him to give a lot of consideration before going to the electors for three years."

Our time is growing short and I believe we want to get along with things so I will not finish the letter, but I want to join with other members

who expressed the opinion that perhaps what is best for Toronto and environs is not necessarily best for ridings some distance from Toronto.

Mr. J. A. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of joining the debate this evening.

Mr. Nixon: What would Norris have said?

Mr. J. A. Taylor: This is not a vote with regard to the sheep industry. Norris Whitney was an expert in that area and I have, as I am sure other members of this House have, a great deal of respect for my predecessor and for the tremendous contribution he made on behalf of the people of Ontario. I know the honourable member was not trying to provoke me, but I want to say I have a great deal of respect for the position of my predecessor in the riding of Prince Edward-Lennox.

I have a deep concern about the extension of the municipal term from two years to three years or longer. I have expressed that concern over the past decade, so my present position is not unclear to those who have noted the posture I have adopted over this long period.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How did this get through your caucus?

Mr. J. A. Taylor: I am certainly not going to be decoyed by the member for Scarborough West or the Liberal members.

Mr. Speaker: It came close.

Mr. J. A. Taylor: Sometimes they come close, but never quite close enough. Nevertheless, the question is posed, how come? I was told on great authority that all members of this Legislature were firmly fixed in the belief that the members of municipal councils should enjoy a three-year term and not a two-year term.

If I am mistaken in that belief, I hope the members opposite will rise in response to the misconception I had in regard to the view I understood to be a unanimous view of all parties in this chamber. Working from the premise that all members of this chamber are firmly fixed in the view that there should be a three-year term as opposed to a two-year term, I nevertheless register my deep-seated concern. It flows from a long-standing conviction in the power and strength of local autonomy and self-determination at the grass-roots level.

I really believe that the public, the ordinary person in this great province of ours, should have the opportunity to reassess his representation at a regular interval and at a fairly frequent interval at the municipal level, not necessarily three years, possibly two years—

10:20 p.m.

Mr. Piché: Maybe one year.

Mr. J. A. Taylor: As my great colleague and compatriot the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché) would say, even on a one-year term, they should be able to reassess how their local member is performing.

Mr. Piché: I first got elected to a one-year term and then I said, "If you like me, keep me; if not, throw me out."

Mr. J. A. Taylor: Notwithstanding the firm conviction of all members of this chamber to succumb to the pressures of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and other organizations to ensure a three-year term, I would ask them to register their independence and freedom of mind and freedom of spirit when this bill comes to a vote. I would hope there would be a serious reconsideration of the terms of this bill. I say that in all sincerity, of course, being a member who has a firm belief, a strong conviction and a keen spirit in our party system.

While I have that loyalty and conviction in the Conservative cause, nevertheless, I think the committee should very seriously consider the extension of the term from two years to three years.

Mr. G. I. Miller: It gives me great pleasure to rise and give my view and the view of my riding and the region of Haldimand-Norfolk. I was interested in the comments made by the previous speaker that the two-year term and the one-year term have been the norm for many years, but with the advent of regional governments their responsibilities and their work loads have increased so much that it has eliminated many people from participating because of the fact that it takes time from their businesses. Their work load is almost as great as that of the members of the Legislature and almost as complicated.

Consequently, I feel a three-year term would be the most useful. It takes one year to get acquainted and one year to get ready for the next election. If members would like to have some continuity and responsibility and have those responsibilities carried out, I think the three-year term makes sense.

I support that concept and respect the councillors and the work load they have in working on behalf of the complicated system provided by this government of many years. We should be encouraging the people to vote and participate. I think a good example is this past election when more than 40 per cent of the people of Ontario did not vote. That does not say anything for the democratic system. We should be doing every-

thing within our power to standardize and make sure our democratic system works and that we do get the right people for the positions.

I support the principle of the bill and hope that it may be carried out.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I pass.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other honourable member wish to participate? If not, the parliamentary assistant.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all members of the House for the support of this bill.

Mr. Swart: Especially your own members.

Mr. Rotenberg: I will be very brief as I do want to take a few minutes to go into committee of the whole House and have this bill passed. I think it is important that municipal councillors know now what their term will be so they can plan for their elections in October. I hope we can pass this this evening.

The point the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) is raising is clearly out of order, but if she wishes to go into committee of the whole House and have that ruling, I certainly would not object. But I do want to say to her and to the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh), who first raised this matter of election expenses—and I do welcome him as the new critic to this ministry—it is the intention of the government and this ministry in this spring session to bring in a further bill on municipal elections. It is the intention—I used those words advisedly because it is an intention, not binding—that this bill will have something in it dealing with election expenses. That will come later and that is the time to debate it.

Again I thank all members for the support of this bill.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for committee of the whole House.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I move the adjournment of the House.

Mr. Rotenberg: We can do committee in two minutes.

Mr. Speaker: No, no, no.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Gregory moves the adjournment of the House. Is it the pleasure of the House that this motion carry?

Oh, I am sorry. Mr. Swart has a late show tonight with the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie).

HOME HEATING COSTS

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, this debate is taking place tonight because there is a matter of real principle involved. That principle is the abdication by the minister of his responsibility to consumers when he refused to answer my question yesterday for intervention by him on the massive increase in the residential gas rate.

I pointed out that the Ontario Energy Board had allowed increases in the last few months which would raise average home heating costs in Niagara and Toronto—in fact, in most of Ontario—from \$657 last year to \$900 this year. I also pointed out to the minister that this massive increase was not due solely to the federal energy program. Rather, it was because distributing companies such as Consumers' Gas were allowed a 65 per cent markup on the pass-through of wholesale costs and federal taxes. That is roughly four times the amount ever allowed before.

Profits of Consumers' Gas last year went up by 19 per cent to \$107 million and the increases just granted allow another estimated \$77 million this year to the firm. Last year the Ontario Energy Board underestimated by \$4 million the profit that Consumers' would make.

In the question period yesterday I asked the minister to make an appeal against the OEB decision, as permitted under section 33 of the Ontario Energy Board Act. Its decision was made on February 26. There are 28 days in which anyone can appeal to the Lieutenant Governor in Council. As minister responsible for consumer protection, it is the responsibility of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) to do just that with the massive *prima facie* evidence which exists that price gouging is taking place in home heating.

10:30 p.m.

What do the terms of reference mean to the minister? I looked up in the government phone book the responsibilities of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and it says this: "The purpose of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations is to ensure a fair, safe and honest marketplace." I emphasize "fair." "To achieve this, the ministry regulates a wide variety of businesses through its licensing, registration and inspection, and is involved in consumer education and protection." I emphasize "protection."

Do not tell me that the Ontario Energy Board hearings were fair or arrived at a fair decision. The Ontario Energy Board does investigate on

its own, but it sits primarily as a court to make a decision on the evidence presented. There is great need for the consumer side to be forceful and fully put.

Does the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations know how well the consumer side was put at that hearing which decided on a rate from September 8 to October 15 and was finalized on February 26 of this year? On the one side was this huge monopoly, Consumers' Gas, with hordes of experts. In fact, they called 20 witnesses during the 19 hearing days. On the other side was the Industrial Gas Users Association which had one witness. One person was there from the manufacturers of heat pumps. The counsel for the Urban Development Institute had a watching brief and no one was there representing the consumer.

It really is a case of an elephant dancing among the chickens and saying, "Everyone for himself." That is not good enough. The minister's predecessor in consumer protection opted out. This debate tonight is my attempt to tell the minister the people of this province are bitterly opposed to that opting out. They want him to live up to his obligation.

Of course, what we really need is a public advocate in this province, as they have in Massachusetts, who will take the consumer's side at Ontario Energy Board hearings and when Bell Canada is being heard at the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, and for Ontario Hydro as well.

As the minister knows, I submitted a private member's bill just yesterday to the Ontario Legislature. I hope he will support it when it comes around so we can have some real protection for consumers. That cannot do anything for this problem at the present time.

The minister can do two things. I ask him to reconsider and do them. He can come to this House on Thursday and answer my question. Secondly, he can go for the appeal on behalf of the hard-pressed consumers who are paying massive heating bills in this province.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to be in attendance for this important debate. I happen to have a great deal of respect for the member's legitimate concern for the consumers of this province and I hope he shares the belief that I have that same interest in the consumers in this province. Were he to say he did not, I would lose a lot of confidence and trust in him.

Having read the standing committee's estimates debates, I know from his remarks in those

estimates that he sees himself as a great free-enterpriser. I was really impressed to see that he saw himself as the guardian of the bastion of free enterprise in those estimates debates. I think that is a tribute to him.

I think he has accurately recorded that there was a long series of public hearings, a public process, I might add, at which there were interventions from the public, not as many as he would like and nor indeed was he there. As he knows, there was an interim report in November and the final report in February.

When he asked me the question, I thought he was seriously interested in the answer. Therefore, I redirected the question to the Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch) who has now sent the member a comprehensive and explicit response. I will not take the time to read that because I think he would not wish me to do so.

In summary, let me make a few points. He knows well that a large portion of the costs that judgement of the OEB recorded were related to capital expenditures involved in storage and distribution. He also knows that these increased capital costs resulted largely from the unprecedented demand the gas industry has been faced with in regard to government-induced off-oil, and quite properly so. He would not argue that and neither would I. But the reality is that to get ready for that big expansion of service, certain capital costs are necessary.

I think the member should also know, and I am sure he does, that since 1973, when the federal and Alberta governments got involved in this whole issue of gas, about 73 to 78 per cent of the costs, by and large, have been due directly

to the intervention of the federal and Alberta governments. He also knows that the Ontario Energy Board said in its decision that they were trying to establish a 16.25 per cent rate of return on common equity and a 13 per cent overall return on the total capital expenditure, not an unreasonable return even for a Socialist. I have heard many Socialists say that this is not an unreasonable rate of return, so I do not think the member can really argue with that. Having said that, let us not pretend that any of us like to have an increase, but at least we have to understand that the reasons for the increase were legitimate.

But to be particularly precise, what the member asked me to do, I would have to submit, does give me some problems. First of all, it gives me some problems because the Consumer Protection Act—

Mr. Swart: Sure, because Darcy McKeough is on the side of the gas company.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Just hang on for a minute.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: The Consumer Protection Act, clause 2, specifically prohibits the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations from making any intervention with respect to costs incurred in distribution and storage and I do not really believe that the member intended to ask this minister to act in any inappropriate way, nor would the public expect him to ask me to do that.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The House adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

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Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Thursday, March 18, 1982

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Thursday, March 18, 1982

The House met at 2:03 p.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

PUBLIC OFFICERS ACT

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, the Public Officers Act requires that within the first 15 days of every session I advise this assembly of all securities furnished on behalf of public officers and of any changes made to such securities. Since my statement of October 22, 1981, there have been no changes in either category.

MOTORIZED SNOW VEHICLES LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I have two statements to make this afternoon relating to legislation I will be introducing at the appropriate time.

Today I will be introducing a bill entitled, the Motorized Snow Vehicles Amendment Act, 1982. The changing situation is reflected by the redefinition of the term "public trails" to facilitate the continued wide application of safety and licensing regulations. The previous definition stated, "Public trail" means the whole of any motorized snow vehicle trail established and maintained in whole or in part by public funds." The revised definition reads as follows, "Trail" means the whole of any trail established and maintained by a recreational organization for the use of motorized snow vehicles."

Drivers of motorized snow vehicles on the newly defined trails must be at least 12 years of age and hold a motorized snow vehicle operator's licence or, if 16 years of age or over, hold a valid driver's licence. Existing licence and age requirements for driving a motorized snow vehicle along a highway or across a highway remain unchanged.

Liability insurance, plus the wearing of helmets, will now be required wherever a snow vehicle is operated. An exemption will be provided so liability insurance and the wearing of helmets will not be required when operating a vehicle on land occupied by the vehicle's owner.

This bill will give me authority to turn over the validation of motorized snow vehicle

operators' licences to the private sector. It is anticipated this authority will be given to individuals who are recognized snow vehicle driver-training instructors. Such people will issue validated licences at the conclusion of a driver-training course.

At present, individuals who do not have a valid driver's licence can receive a certificate on completion of a prescribed snow vehicle driver-training course which, when validated by the ministry, becomes a motorized snow vehicle operator's licence. This process is inconvenient to the public, primarily because of the inaccessibility of potential licensees to a permanent driver examination centre as well as the infrequency with which, at times, driver examining staff visit outlying travel points.

In summary, it is expected this bill will clarify safety regulations regarding the operation of motorized snow vehicles under the new definition of "trails" and create a more efficient licensing procedure.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I have a second statement, also with regard to new legislation.

Later this afternoon I will be introducing a bill entitled, the Highway Traffic Amendment Act, 1982. In addition to a number of housekeeping items, it contains an amendment providing for the mandatory use of child restraint devices for small children when travelling in motor vehicles.

Children under five years of age or those weighing less than 22.7 kilograms or 50 pounds are exempt under Ontario's existing seatbelt law. That legislation, which came into effect in 1976, excluded these youngsters primarily because at that time there was a lack of adequate federal government standards governing child restraints for the smallest of children.

This situation has changed, or is about to when the federal government lives up to its commitment. Right now there are federal government standards for child restraints designed for toddlers weighing between nine and 18 kilograms. Transport Canada has promised to have standards covering infants from birth to nine kilograms on the books some time later this year. Taking that promise at face value, therefore,

we are making the necessary changes to the Highway Traffic Act now so we will be able to adopt the standards for small child restraints as soon as they are enacted.

Under our proposed regulations, infants weighing less than nine kilograms will have to be properly buckled up in a federally approved, rear-facing infant carrier. I should point out infant carriers are portable and easily moved from one vehicle to another. This proposed regulation, therefore, will not create unnecessary hardship for motorists.

Children weighing more than nine but less than 18 kilograms will have to be properly buckled up in a federally approved child's seat while travelling in a vehicle regularly used by the parent or legal guardian. Children in the same category travelling in someone else's vehicle will have to be secured in a lap belt or a child seat. Children weighing more than 18 but less than 23 kilograms will be required to wear lap belts in all motor vehicles. Children over this weight limit, of course, fall within Ontario's existing seatbelt law and must wear the complete seatbelt assembly.

2:10 p.m.

I must point out there will be a few exemptions to the child restraint legislation. For practical reasons, we cannot insist on the use of infant carriers and child seats in taxis, buses, public vehicles, short-term rental or out-of-province vehicles. Medical exemptions will be permitted, as they are for the existing seatbelt legislation. The penalty for failure to comply will be a fine of not less than \$20 and not more than \$100 for the driver of the vehicle.

I intend to make these requirements apply, first of all, to children born after the effective date of the regulation. One year later it will be extended to include all children. This will permit a more gradual peaking in the demand for child restraints in the marketplace and allow time for young families to plan for the additional expense.

This legislation, in our view, will have a dramatic effect on the number of youngsters killed and injured in motor vehicle crashes on Ontario roads. In 1980, 18 children under five years of age died and 1,697 were injured in highway mishaps in Ontario.

This bill also contains an amendment calling for stiffer penalties for drivers who fail to stop for a stopped school bus with its alternating red signal lights flashing—a continuing problem, according to both the police and school bus operators. Drivers who disregard the school bus

stopping law will, under this amendment, be liable to a fine of from \$100 to \$500 for a first offence. For each subsequent offence, a driver will be liable to a fine of from \$250 to \$1,000 or to imprisonment for up to six months, or both. We also intend to mandate a 20-metre stopping distance behind any stopped school bus with its lights activated.

The amendment also calls for the installation and maintenance of crossover mirrors on school buses to make sure the driver of the bus can see children crossing in front of the vehicle at all times. Bus operators will also be required to install stop arms on school buses. This amendment is tentatively scheduled to come into effect on September 1, 1983. This is to allow for the retrofitting of some 10,000 school buses in the province.

Finally, the bill contains an amendment permitting the operation of a motor vehicle of up to 12.5 metres in length. This amendment, extending the permissible length of the vehicle by 1.5 metres, is designed to bring our current legislation in line with the legal limits in most other Canadian jurisdictions, thus easing the movement of goods across the country.

FLOODING

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, the late arrival of warmer weather this year, coupled with rainfall and ice and snow melt-off, has caused concern about the possibility of serious flooding, particularly in southern Ontario.

I want to assure the honourable members that all weather and watershed conditions are constantly being monitored by my ministry's stream flow forecast centre. This centre is in continuous liaison with the conservation authorities and with ministry field offices, providing them with updates on conditions as they occur.

We are in a position to alert authorities instantly in any area where flood potential is imminent. To notify the public of flood danger, the 39 provincial conservation authorities utilize their flood warning system to contact municipal authorities, police, broadcast and TV media in the area. Where there is no regional conservation authority, the ministry uses the same sources to make contact.

During the past two weeks, the combination of a warming trend and increased rainfall has produced substantial stream flows across southwestern Ontario, particularly in the Sydenham, Catfish and Big Otter Creek watersheds. However, these flows are now on the decline and the threat of potential flooding has diminished.

At the moment, the stream flow forecast centre is closely monitoring a large storm now forming in the US midwest. It is expected to reach here this weekend and has the potential of releasing heavy rainfall. Rivers in southwestern Ontario are vulnerable as they are running at high to moderate levels. The centre will keep all authorities up to date as this storm approaches.

The breakup in northern Ontario has not yet begun, but as this situation develops we will be monitoring it as well.

SAFETY OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the House that at the request of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) I have ordered an investigation of factors relating to what has been claimed to be an abnormal number of miscarriages by clerical staff of the Ministry of the Attorney General working in the old city hall in Toronto. This investigation is to be carried out by Dr. John L. Harkins, a professor and former chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Toronto. I have asked him to report as quickly as possible.

As in the Peterborough investigation which I announced earlier in the week, Dr. Harkins is to be appointed an inspector under both the Public Health Act and the Public Hospitals Act. In this way, he will have full authority to investigate medical, environmental or other factors which he feels may be pertinent. He will also be able to examine any relevant health records.

The Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) has asked me to assure Dr. Harkins that he will have access to any resources his ministry has which may assist him. In addition, of course, he will be free to obtain any other assistance he requires.

Because of the confidential nature of medical information which may be involved, Dr. Harkins likely will carry out this assignment in private. However, I intend to provide copies of his report to the Civil Service Commission and to the union representing the employees, as well as to this House, and I would invite anyone with relevant information to assist Dr. Harkins.

In conclusion, I want to assure the House that we consider this to be a matter of very serious concern. I believe that Dr. Harkins will be able to deal promptly with this concern.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT CLAIMS

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, when this government introduced compulsory automobile insurance in March 1980, the standard

policy was also amended to include uninsured motorist coverage. As a result of these changes, any individual involved in an automobile accident in this province could reasonably expect to receive payment up to the mandatory third-party liability in force at the time of the mishap.

However, in spite of this, and as a result of the recent insolvency of the federally incorporated Pitts Insurance Company, many innocent people could now find themselves in difficult financial straits through no fault of their own. On the one hand, there will undoubtedly be plaintiffs who are unable to obtain the expected compensation from at-fault Pitts policyholders. On the other hand, there will be Pitts policyholders who will not have the protection they thought they had contracted for.

It could take many years—perhaps a decade—before the total liabilities of Pitts Insurance Company can be accurately determined and compared with the company's realizable assets. According to the most up-to-date information I have, Pitts will not likely be able to satisfy more than 45 to 75 per cent of the cost of each of the claims. It is doubtful, at this moment, that any interim disbursements will be made by Pitts to its creditors for at least two or three years.

In the meantime, it is our view that steps should be taken to help those holding automobile insurance policies with Pitts. I am, therefore, pleased to announce today that my ministry is working on a plan under which persons involved in a loss resulting from an automobile accident in Ontario will be assured of receiving at least the legislated mandatory coverage level, notwithstanding the financial collapse of Pitts Insurance Company.

This plan will, in effect, extend the application of the motor vehicle accident fund to persons whose only other remedy for accidents occurring before March 1980 would have been against Pitts. The fund will, of course, reserve the right to be reimbursed by the receiver of Pitts Insurance for any amount paid out on behalf of those insured by Pitts. Individuals such as pedestrians and bicyclists who are not covered by an automobile insurance policy but who were injured in Ontario by a driver insured by Pitts, can apply to the fund on the same basis, no matter when the accident occurred.

The matter of accidents that occur after March 1980 will be dealt with as soon as possible. At the moment, we are awaiting a decision from the Supreme Court of Ontario on the question of claims made to the claimant's own insurance

company under the mandatory compulsory uninsured coverage provided for in any standard automobile policy.

2:20 p.m.

In conclusion, I would like to advise the House that amendments to the motor vehicle accident claims fund can be expected shortly. They will ensure that drivers insured with Pitts will not be treated as uninsured drivers and have their licences cancelled; neither will they be required to reimburse the fund, but their rights as insured persons will be subrogated to the motor vehicle accident claims fund.

U OF T EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise on a point of privilege. Last Friday, I asked the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) about the contract between the University of Toronto and Saudi Arabia with respect to the exchange of students and professors. He said at that point he was going to review it after he had determined that he was responsible for the act which is operative in this case. Some six days have passed since that commitment to the House.

In view of the fact, as I am led to believe, the governing council of the University of Toronto may review this contract on March 25 when the House is not sitting, I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if you could use your good offices to make sure the minister reports back to this House today or tomorrow to ensure that contract receives proper legislative scrutiny?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to respond to the member's question during question period today.

Mr. Peterson: It is not a question. I would like him to report to the House.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I indicated I would respond to the question and I will do so. I advise you, Mr. Speaker, that I have a response ready.

Mr. Peterson: I assume from that the minister is going to answer later with a statement, which is just fine with me.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: No, Mr. Speaker, I will be answering a question.

Mr. Peterson: We have already asked the minister a question. What is the matter with him?

Mr. Nixon: The minister was asked a question.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Is the minister going to answer a previously asked question?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I will be answering a previously asked question. I said that.

Mr. Peterson: I have trouble understanding the minister. I assume by that I do not have to ask it again and he will be responding.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ONTARIO ENERGY INVESTMENT

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a question of the Treasurer. Given the fact that it is well known he opposed, or at least was not happy about, the original purchase of Suncor but did support it under the principle of cabinet solidarity; given the fact that a public opinion poll was released on Saturday, saying a majority of the people of Ontario agree with his original instinct that the province should not have bought Suncor; and given the fact that his government is run by public opinion polls, can we assume this poll will give him the support or the clout in cabinet to convince cabinet to sell off Suncor and use that money to create jobs here in Ontario?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, the leader of the Liberal Party—

Mr. Bradley: Ask Bob Runciman.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Ask Jim Peterson about that.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Ask Jimmy Coutts about that.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: There were many "given the facts" in the run-up to the question which I am sure all of us on this side would agree were totally hypothetical. I did see that Decima Research poll and I guess it would prove just one thing, that government here is not run by polls.

Mr. Peterson: There is widespread speculation the minister is the one who leaked it to justify his feeble position on this matter. That is the reality.

It was stated several times in this House that we were given substantial information on that purchase. I can quote the Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch), who said on one occasion, "By any measure, the information available to the Legislature and the public of this province generally on this transaction is considerable." Could the Treasurer explain why no one in this House, or outside of it, to the best of my knowledge, was told there would be a dividend of some \$78 million stripped from that company the day before that purchase was closed?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, a question with that kind of detail is best handled by the Minister of Energy.

Mr. Peterson: May I redirect it then to the Minister of Energy, Mr. Speaker? He may want to answer. The Treasurer may not view it this way, but it is a financial question. However, I am willing to listen to the answer of the Minister of Energy.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. With all respect, members are not allowed to redirect. The minister may redirect a question if he—

Some hon. members: He did.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I did not redirect the question.

Mr. Speaker: No, he did not. He suggested that the question might more properly be asked of the Minister of Energy, but he did not redirect it.

Mr. Peterson: It is the taxpayers' money, and he does not even know the value he is getting.

Mr. Speaker, let me ask the Treasurer another question, if I may. Given the fact that the world price of oil is falling and that the oil price scenario used to justify the purchase of Suncor was a rapidly escalating price, can the Treasurer tell this House now if the information on which he based that purchase is still accurate, or are we going to lose more money on that deal than we originally thought?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I think one could look at many stocks over the last few months and say that their prices have fallen. I saw a figure today which showed that stock prices in general have dropped by some \$55 billion. Oil stocks have probably led the way.

Contrary to the speculation of the Leader of the Opposition, the fact remains that we were not in that for speculation; we were in there for policy reasons that have been discussed. They were reasons relating to the total security of energy in this country.

Mr. Speaker: A new question. The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: That was the final supplementary.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, in that case, I rise on a point of order. I suspect that the Treasurer unwittingly misled the House in his response to my leader. He said that the government did not operate by public opinion poll in the instance of the Decima poll which was released last Saturday.

I have in my hand a poll that was commissioned by the Treasurer himself or his ministry about a year and a half ago. The question asked was, "Should the province establish a provincially owned oil company similar to Petro-Canada?" There are four or five questions in like vein, all of which indicate that at the time the poll commissioned by the Treasurer was taken the response of the majority of people was to buy an oil company.

I suggest to the Treasurer that he might want to change his answer and say: "Yes, this government does operate by public opinion poll."

Mr. Speaker: Order. A new question. The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. T. P. Reid: He has misled the House.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sure the member for Rainy River, after having had time to reconsider that unfortunate remark, will want to withdraw it.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer said, and I heard him, that the government does not operate by public opinion poll, clearly indicating that it did not operate that way. I have a poll commissioned by the Treasurer—

Mr. Speaker: Quite clearly I heard the answer. Order. Having said that, would the member please withdraw that remark?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have said on other occasions that we all have to be honourable members. I withdraw; the record stands for itself.

HYDRO EXPORTS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. On Monday, when the minister was asked how Ontario citizens are to voice their environmental concerns over the General Public Utilities cable without a hearing under the Environmental Assessment Act, he stated, in effect, "If anyone has any concerns, all he has to do is write me a letter."

Given that Ontario Hydro is a provincial crown corporation subject to the laws of our province, over which this government has power, is the minister's refusal to hold a proper hearing under the act not an abdication of his responsibility to protect the environment in Ontario?

2:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, in my opinion the simple answer to that would be no. I would suggest to the honourable member that if one were not taking into consideration the issues relating to the environmental impact of any such project, then what he is suggesting might be true. But that is not the case in this situation. As I have explained before, I have indicated the status of our legislation in this particular instance.

I have also indicated that prior to any decision being taken by this government under section 23 of the Ontario Energy Corporation Act, we will be giving full and thorough consideration to all environmental aspects of the project and will impose whatever measures may be indicated in order to assure Canadians, particularly Ontarians, that if the project is approved any export of power pursuant to such a contract would be a clean export and would not have any significant impact on the Ontario environment.

Mr. Peterson: The minister fails to give us any assurance as to how that will be done; whether it will be a review in his own office, in conjunction with the Ministry of Energy, in cabinet or however. He significantly avoids the details on how that review process will go on.

Listen carefully to what he said on Monday and again today. He said, "The export is a clean export." Is the minister aware of Hydro's submission of January 19, 1982, to the National Energy Board, which shows the emission levels for SO₂ and NOX from the contract alone will be 129,000 tons in 1985, 108,000 tons in 1986, 113,000 tons in 1987, 107,000 in 1988, and the list goes on. How can he consider these emission levels, which are Hydro's own figures, to be conducive to "a clean export"?

Hon. Mr. Norton: If I am not mistaken, the figures the member is using are the figures used in the submission by the federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources before the National Energy Board. As a result of the communications I and the staff have had with Ontario Hydro, and the subsequent review of the figures by the staff of my ministry at my request, because of the disparity between the figures that had been used by Environment Canada and the figures I understood Hydro to be using, our staff have indicated to me that the 50,000-ton figure is an accurate one.

However, I do not think there is much to be gained at this stage by arguing over figures; the issue is what is important. Whatever the correct figure is, I still stand by my original statement. I think the member changed the tense in my

response, or that I inadvertently used the wrong tense in my response on Monday, or whenever it was.

Mr. Peterson: When you don't know the figures you get a little tense, that is the problem.

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, no; that is not the tense that was involved. He alleges that I said, "This is a clean export." I think I said, "I can assure you this will be a clean export;" and I stand by that.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, instead of engaging in mealy-mouthed, picayune points of grammar over verb tenses, can the minister assure us that Ontario Hydro will not, by this export, be causing 10 to 20 per cent of the emissions resulting in acid rain in this province? Of what is the minister afraid in denying an environmental assessment hearing to the people of this province? Is he not aware that in his government's throne speech the greatest single space was taken up by an endorsement of the tourist industry; and that the greatest single threat to the tourist industry in this province is acid rain?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I may be accused at times of being long-winded but I do not really think I am mealy-mouthed. However, we will not debate that. I do not think that was the point of the slur.

I do not know where the honourable member got the 10 per cent figure but there is something he ought to bear in mind. Even if nothing further were done—and I emphasize the if, that is not a statement of what the intention is—even if only the present order were to continue for the balance of this decade, Ontario Hydro's contribution to the total emissions of sulphur in this province would be reduced by approximately 50 per cent.

The member can draw other figures from here or there and try to make the issue more clouded than it already is in the minds of some people. But I do not know of any other jurisdiction in North America, and perhaps even in the world, other than possibly Sweden, where there has been such a major effort undertaken in terms of the reduction of sulphur emissions.

If the member knows of another jurisdiction in any part of this world he can raise it right here in the House now and we can compare. Otherwise, I think it is important this government be given credit for the major effort in the reduction of sulphur emissions and the reduction of the problem of acid rain that has an impact in this jurisdiction and others. We have a record that is second to none.

Mr. Peterson: The minister seems singularly unaware of even Hydro's submission, which is different from his own perception of the facts. According to Hydro's own figures for the year 1990, emission levels will be 300,000 tons and without General Public Utilities it would be 224,000 ton—25 per cent less.

I ask the same question the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and many people in this province are asking. Who will stop the rain? Who speaks for the environment of Ontario? It sure is not the government.

Hon. Mr. Norton: One of the most gratifying things for me in this new sitting of the Legislature is that finally the gentlemen who is now the Leader of the Opposition has discovered the environment. I appreciate any support his new-found interest may lead to. I do not recall ever hearing that gentlemen speak before in this House on a matter relating to environmental protection. If his interest is really in asking who will stop the rain, it will sure be this government before it is ever him, in view of the interest he has shown.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a small correction if I might: it was 10 to 20 per cent of Hydro's emissions, rather than this province's emissions.

SAFETY OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour with regard to the miscarriages among civil servants at old city hall. Was he consulted by the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) before he made the statement today?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the—

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Labour please.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I thought I heard somebody else answer for me.

Mr. Speaker: I think that was an echo.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: The answer is yes.

Mr. Foulds: Did the minister agree to this independent investigation because he felt no confidence in his own officials? They had been quoted as saying, and I quote directly—I guess it is Dr. Muc, who was appointed to look at the question—"As far as I am concerned, from the position I have in the ministry, I do not feel the resources I have at my disposal for looking at nonionizing radiation problems should be frittered away on looking at video display terminals."

Did the minister feel a lack of confidence in his officials because for three years they have failed to obtain from Kodak the components of a substance used in the toner of the photocopier in that work place and that, therefore, we are now no further ahead in finding out what may be the cause of the alarming rate at old city hall, in the Attorney General's department?

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, first, I certainly have no lack of confidence in my own staff. My feeling is that although most of the studies that have been done indicate there is no danger, there still seems to be a real concern about the possibility of danger, and as long as that concern exists it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour to look into it at every level. Therefore, when the Minister of Health, in responding to a promise made by the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), said a medical physician would look into this matter, I greeted that suggestion with great enthusiasm.

I also want to refer members to the fact that the ministry set up a task force on the possible health hazards of VDTs back in 1981 at the instigation of my predecessor. This task force—I have the membership here and if members would care to see it, I will pass it over—has about a dozen extremely distinguished individuals on it, including Mr. Robert DeMatteo, who raised the initial complaint. This task force—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am sorry?

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections, please. Answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: In summing up, my officials are looking into the matter. The Ministry of Health is looking into the matter. The task force has been set up to look into the matter. What we are attempting to do is make sure that every consideration is given to this problem and to alleviate the concerns of those involved.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, surely the minister is aware that during the estimates of the Ministry of Government Services last October, the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps) asked about VDTs at that time. In answering the question from my colleague, the minister said his ministry, through the occupational health and safety branch, was a lead ministry in monitoring the safety of government workers using VDTs.

In fact, the minister said, and I would like to quote him briefly: "They"—the Ministry of

Labour—"are monitoring it." He continued, "I would only say that my worry in government is that we have a lot of duplication, and if one ministry is taking the lead role in something like that, it is my personal opinion that we should not be going down the same road."

My question is this: Who is in charge over there? Who is monitoring the health and safety of government workers using the new technology? And how does one account for the fact the Ministry of Government Services says one thing and the responsible minister does not know anything about the issue until it is raised in the House? In fact, neither the Minister of Labour nor the Attorney General was aware of this specific problem until it was raised by the union and later in the House.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure I found a question in that.

Mr. Speaker: The question is, "Who is in charge?"

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: The government of this province is in charge, and it is the responsibility of my ministry to co-ordinate those activities.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, given the Attorney General's failure to respond adequately to the present problem and the failure of the Attorney General's department to have responded to the problems at old city hall for the past three years, given the failure of the Attorney General's department to comply with the request by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union since 1979 that voluntary health and safety committees be established, and given that under the act in subsection 8(3) it says the minister can appoint voluntary health and safety committees, will he now appoint a voluntary health and safety committee so that those problems which have been festering for three years can be dealt with in an adequate fashion?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to appoint those committees at the present time. I am prepared to wait and see the results of the task force, the results of the investigation that has been started by the Ministry of Health and the ongoing investigations of my ministry. Then I will give that every consideration.

ASSISTANCE TO HOME OWNERS

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. I am sure the Treasurer has been made aware of the serious economic problems in Chatham, where unemployment has increased by 20 per cent in the last year. We

raised that problem with the minister last fall in regard to the manufacturing layoffs and so on and he did nothing then.

It now looks as if that serious rate of unemployment in Chatham is raising problems with people renewing mortgages, so that one out of every four single-family multiple listings in Chatham is now being held under forced sale. Will the Treasurer take action to provide interest rate relief and a moratorium on mortgages so that the 57 people who are suffering forced sale in Chatham will be able to maintain the dignity of a home?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, that is a variation on a question I received from someone in the House yesterday. It may have been the member for Port Arthur.

Mr. Speaker: Tuesday.

Mr. Foulds: I do not know where the Treasurer was yesterday, but the House was not sitting.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I wondered why the question yesterday had an unusually acute tone to it.

Mr. Martel: The answer was so dull, too.

Hon. F. S. Miller: There was a lot less heckling.

Mr. Speaker: Now to the question.

Hon. F. S. Miller: In any case, the answer I gave then was that the federal government had announced, I think, assistance of \$3,000, either through a loan or a grant, depending upon the equity level in a person's home, and that it was to bring that legislation in. I did not talk about the details of the federal proposition but that is what it was. I feel that is exactly what is needed to save a number of these situations.

I also mentioned at that time that lawyers are familiar with techniques which would allow people some time frame. I am hoping to see that legislation passed. I do not want to imply there will be any action in the Ontario budget but I can assure the member we are very concerned about the problems of home owners, as we are about other people faced with similar problems. I hope my budget will tackle some of those problems.

Mr. Foulds: Is the Treasurer aware there was a government of Ontario in 1933 that did bring in such legislation? The Attorney General at that time, Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Price, indicated as he introduced the bill to provide for a mortgage moratorium: "No matter at the present time needs the attention of the public as

much as the matter contained in this bill. When one tries to remedy a situation which is generally beyond the control of the province, it is very difficult to have a bill which will take care of the situation."

Nevertheless, some 50 years ago a government of this province did try to take care of the situation. Will the Treasurer stop shoving the responsibility solely on to the federal government and undertake his responsibilities in this province to protect Ontario's home owners?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Even the supplementary question is the same as the last one. The member must know that. I thought there was something against repetition in the House on a daily basis.

Looking at those measures, as they appear to be part of the Saskatchewan manifesto and the manifesto of the member's party, I suggest he is looking very narrowly at a problem that affects many people. The assumption that only institutions are lenders of mortgages is wrong. For example, I am told banks lend only about 12 per cent of all the mortgages now outstanding on homes. Many of the mortgages are handled by private individuals.

One has to recognize that we want to have a continuing source of mortgage money available both for people hoping to buy homes and for those renewing mortgages. Some of the actions which my friend suggests would, if followed, drive money to much safer places.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, if the Treasurer is worried about the financial health of the various lending institutions, why does he not introduce an interest rate relief program, so that money will help not only the beleaguered and threatened home owners but also his friends in the institutions?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal of difficulty understanding how that would help my friends in the institutions. By the way, they were the friends of the Leader of the Opposition. They were out there working hard for him because they thought he was going to the right. Suddenly, they find him going to the left, drifting down stream. Now the member is trying to stake out the ground the third party is occupying; which is going to be a bit embarrassing for his own party, particularly after having got rid of Stuart Smith.

Interjection.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Does the member want me to read back some of his facts? I have them here.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the Treasurer please address himself to the question.

Hon. F. S. Miller: "During the leadership campaign Peterson said, 'The Ontario government should introduce legislation to prevent people from being forced out of their homes.'" That is what he just said. Does the member disagree with that?

Mr. Breithaupt: No, I do not.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Well then, why did you say it was the dumbest thing anybody had said?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The Treasurer will ignore the interjections.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if the Treasurer is aware that in addition to all those people who are losing their homes in Chatham, that city has had an 80 per cent increase in the number of accounts transferred to collection agencies and the rate of personal bankruptcies in 1981 increased 200 per cent over 1980?

Is it all this government can do, that the Treasurer can do, to announce that there is going to be this farm equipment and food processing technology centre—which was simply put in Chatham because the government was not going to give the city the auto tech centre—which will create hardly any jobs at all and will not create immediate jobs for Chatham? Is that all it can do for a city that is struggling to survive? Why does the government, instead, not endorse the New Democratic Party automotive program, which calls for short-term relief for communities as well as an automobile strategy to restructure that industry to create jobs for Canadians in Canada?

Hon. F. S. Miller: We have supported the United Auto Workers' strategy—I do not know whether that is the member's strategy; if it is, fine—which was to support a major increase in the Canadian value-added into the industry. If the member is against tech centres in general and specifically against the tech centre in Chatham, so be it. He knows that the jobs being created by those centres really are not the jobs at the site; they are the jobs in the industries of Ontario that need access to high technology. But the member has not heard a word I have said because he was talking the whole time.

PLANT SHUTDOWNS

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, last Friday the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) raised a question concerning Galtaco Inc. in Cambridge. Particularly, he asked if I would assure the House that 93 employees of Galtaco

foundry in Cambridge, laid off on December 14, would receive severance pay. As I was responding to that question the time for oral questions expired. Earlier this week the member asked me if I would provide him with the information requested. I certainly have no objection to completing my answer.

As the member knows, the employees of Galtaco were on strike from mid-August of last year until December 14. On that day the union, the United Steelworkers of America, was advised that the foundry was being closed. My predecessor received notification of that fact on December 23.

There is, as the member knows, a dispute as to entitlement to severance pay. The employer takes the position that the business was permanently discontinued as a result of the economic consequences of the strike, and that by virtue of clause 40a(2)(b) of the Employment Standards Act no severance pay is owing. The union and the employees, on the other hand, contest the company's position on a variety of grounds. The union has made a formal complaint, on behalf of the employees, to the employment standards branch of my ministry and the matter is now under investigation.

As I told the union and the employees when I met with them on February 26, the question of entitlement to severance pay is a matter for determination, in the first instance, by the employment standards branch. In appropriate circumstances the branch may refer a contested claim to a referee for adjudication under section 51 of the act. I have no authority to determine the claim, and I am, therefore, unable to indicate to my friend what the result of the investigation may be. However, I can say I have been advised that it will be completed shortly.

I might add that during my meeting with the union I suggested that employees affected by the closure may wish to pursue the possibility of participating in a special counselling and training project conducted under the joint auspices of my ministry and the local community college. I am happy to report that the local union and the employees responded affirmatively, and earlier this week an initial session was conducted by the ministry and college officials at the Steelworkers hall in Cambridge.

I am very hopeful that this project, which involves intensive group and individual counselling, followed, where appropriate, by training opportunities, will enable the affected employees to re-enter the labour market in productive and satisfying employment as soon as possible. I

shall be happy to keep the member for Hamilton East informed of progress as this special project develops.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the minister's answer disturbs me no end. I would like to read him one short paragraph from a letter, dated January 25, from the previous Minister of Labour to me concerning this situation: "According to the company, demand for their product had dropped from about 50 to 60 per cent of plant capacity to about 20 per cent of plant capacity. The company felt that incurring further losses at the Cambridge plant could jeopardize the viability of the entire company."

The point I am making to the minister is that the wheels were in motion for some time to close that plant down. The strike was the excuse and, towards the end of the strike, the union had agreed to back off considerably on what it was asking for. That company is operating a couple of other foundries, as the minister should know, in Ontario. What I am telling him now is that this is one of many loopholes we are finding in the severance pay legislation. They are senior, long-term employees who should be entitled to severance pay. That is the only issue the minister should be dealing with.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. The long-awaited health and occupational joint study concerning Inco Ltd. employees' death rate from occupational cancer related to the respiratory tract has been completed to some degree. What new directions can the Legislature expect from the Ministry of Labour and the government in establishing guidelines for adjudication of Workmen's Compensation Board claims for all work-related cancers in industry related to nickel exposure?

Can the Legislature be assured that the minister responsible will initiate immediate action for the implementation of fair compensation allowance and benefits to all injured workers and survivors of the deceased employees?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I started to answer this question the other day when the bells started to ring, or whatever the case might have been. At that time I was indicating I had not received a copy of the report as yet. I was a little disappointed about that fact in that the ministry had contributed substantially to the funding of that report, which is a very serious one and a long-awaited one that has taken three years to produce.

I really do not think I can answer the honourable member's question appropriately until I have had an opportunity to see that report and to assess its contents. But I can assure him it will get immediate attention since we consider it to be an extremely important one. It is a very serious matter.

3 p.m.

Mr. Martel: It is 48 hours later, Mr. Speaker, but I want to get my supplementary in from the last day. Would the minister indicate if he is prepared to have that study analysed by his own department in order to look at specific locations within the operations instead of taking a shotgun approach that almost distorts the picture? There are areas with a high incidence of cancer which I cited the other day: Creighton mine has 27. I want to know if the minister is prepared to look at specific locations we now know have these high incidences after that study was in progress.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, my first impression of this question is that it is a very reasonable one, and I certainly think we can do that.

I do not provide this bit of information with any idea of trying to say, "Hey, look what is being done" or anything like that, because you cannot equate human lives with facts and figures. However, after this matter was first brought up I asked the Workmen's Compensation Board to give me a rundown on the number of claims, how they have been handled and so on. I have a summary here. Since 1961 the board has received a total of 248 claims originating in the sintering, cupola and calcining operations; 188 of those in respect of lung cancer, 59 in respect of sinus cancer and one in respect of lymphoma. A total of 17 of these claims were rejected, three are pending and the remaining 228 have been allowed.

I am not here to say this is a good, fair or bad record. I just pass that information along, because I want to get additional background information before I draw any conclusions from those results.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Can the Minister justify the deliberate attempt by Union of Canada Life Insurance in Ottawa to destroy the efforts of the Office and Professional Employees International Union, Local 225, to organize its workers, mostly women, and get

them their first contract? The attempt ended in a strike that has been on since October 6, 1981. The company is refusing to negotiate and is hiring scabs at rates of pay not only higher than those the employees who organized were getting but higher than they had requested, and it has refused to make any counter offers.

How long, Mr. Minister, are we going to allow a situation like this in which the workers have been undermined in their attempts to form a legitimate union?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should be versed in that circumstance, but I have to admit that I am not; it is brand new. I will have an answer for the member in question period tomorrow morning.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, in view of this answer, will the minister make himself aware that flouting of the law by this insurance company is so obvious it has brought about intervention on behalf of the workers by Monseigneur Plourde, the archbishop of Ottawa. It also has brought about a petition signed by more than 150 priests and nuns as well as almost the entire labour movement. I am surprised the minister did not know about it. Will he not see that the rights of these workers are protected, workers who have up to 30 years' seniority in that office operation?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, yes, I will be happy to look into that matter as well.

Mr. Speaker: New question, the honourable member for Hastings-Peterborough.

Mr. Mancini: Supplementary?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The rotation of questions is that the original questioner gets a supplementary, okay? The honourable member for Hastings-Peterborough.

MINE SHUTDOWNS

Mr. Pollock: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. In view of the impending closure of Madawaska Mines Ltd. in my riding, has his ministry made any plans to relieve the problems the closure of this mine is going to cause?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, the problems with respect to Madawaska Mines Ltd. related to their contract for the sale of uranium to Agip Nucleare in Italy. It was a 10-year contract entered into in 1974. The contract had a five-year term, five-year renewal period. The company, in negotiating the 1982-83 prices, was

notified by the nuclear agency in Italy that they had a \$2 billion surplus of uranium fuel at the present time, that they were mothballing a great deal of their nuclear development program and that therefore they wished to terminate the contract.

In the light of that information, the company very recently notified me and issued notices to the mine staff of temporary shutdown of some duration of that operation. Since that time, the representatives of the Premier's office and the Ministry of Labour have been examining the situation. We have suggested some measures the company could take in an attempt to support or add to the severance package for the workers.

In the Ministry of Natural Resources, we have been in the last day examining the potential of the industrial mineral deposits in that part of eastern Ontario, particularly talc and silica and also graphite. We will attempt to speed up our work with the private sector in looking at industrial mineral developments in the Bancroft area. In addition to that, we have known for some time there are large volumes of surplus low grade hardwoods available for board mills or particle board mills and we are—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Members over there may not care about the workers of Bancroft but we over here happen to. They cannot stand up and damn the government over it so they are not interested.

Mr. Speaker: Will the minister answer the question please?

Hon. Mr. Pope: We are also working with various companies in the private sector with respect to this available inventory of hardwoods and we hope to speed up that process and have some commitment with respect to a possible short-log sawmill furniture component facility or a possible particle board operation in that vicinity and we will work as hard as we can. In addition, there has been contact by the company with the federal minister with responsibility for mines and with the federal manpower minister. We have pursued those contacts ourselves with respect to some short-term relief along the same lines as we initiated contact with respect to the lumber workers in this province.

Mr. Pollock: Is the mill going to be dismantled?

Hon. Mr. Pope: In a discussion with company representatives this morning our indication was that the mill was just going to be mothballed and not dismantled.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, in this general area of closures is the minister going to report to this House on the activities of his interministerial committee on single-resource-industry communities? Not only do we have situations such as mentioned by the member for Hastings-Peterborough but we also have just learned of the imminent closing of the Umex mine at Pickle Lake, which is also in this same category. Will he report to the House on the activities of that committee?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, the Umex situation has been a problem for the last three years. There have been numerous discussions with Umex officials over the past month. Everyone was aware it was a marginal mine. One of the problems was trying to establish supplementary employment opportunities in the Pickle Lake area. It relates to the memorandum of understanding with Reed Paper, it relates to the Environmental Assessment Act and until those are cleared out of the way and we are working at alternative employment, we cannot make that kind of progress.

The state of single-industry communities and the efforts of the government with respect to single-industry communities were discussed by members of the third party and myself at the estimates of this ministry last December.

3:10 p.m.

U OF T EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

Hon. Mr. Elgie: On March 12, the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) asked a question concerning a reported contract that was being contemplated by the University of Toronto and a university in Saudi Arabia. We have had an opportunity to review that contract and the various documents associated with it and can find no evidence of any discriminatory language that would contravene the Discriminatory Business Practices Act.

I know the member's interest in the issue goes beyond that, as does my own. I took the opportunity to phone Dr. Jim Ham at the University of Toronto and was able to find out from him that there is an accompanying document that both universities have signed. It is an addendum that preceded the member's question and the issue, and it reads as follows:

"It is understood that all activities taking place under the collaborative program and the associated agreement shall conform to all relevant administrative and institutional policies and procedures of both universities."

I do not have the document here but I made

some notes at the time. What that means is that it will require compliance with the human rights legislation that exists in this province and with the equal opportunity provisions and policies of the University of Toronto. Those documents also say that no discrimination shall be exercised or practised.

As I said, I have talked to Dr. Ham and he says if any circumstance arises where those conditions, which they see as an integral part of the contract, are not lived up to, the agreement will be terminated.

Mr. Peterson: As I understand the minister's response to my question it purports to reflect certain correspondence between the universities.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: No.

Mr. Peterson: That is what the minister just said.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I said the document that would form part of the contractual arrangement is signed by both parties—it is not correspondence between them.

Mr. Peterson: There will be no discrimination against women or Jews in Ontario and Jews and women will be eligible to go to Saudi Arabia under the terms of this contract? Can the minister give that categorical assurance to this House?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I have had categorical assurance that if the university does have a student or a professor going to Saudi Arabia who encounters any difficulty during the operation, then from the university's point of view the contract will terminate.

Mr. Speaker: A new question, the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini).

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Speaker, am I entitled to a supplementary on the last question?

Mr. Speaker: No, because the original questioner had a supplementary. I did not recognize you; I did not actually see you. I saw the note but I did not see you stand.

URBAN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Mr. Mancini: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Is the minister aware that the Urban Transportation Development Corp., which has been provided \$86 million by this government, has used a considerable amount of that money to provide 26 company cars for the executives of this crown corporation? They include Mr. K.

W. Foley, who is the president, the deputy project manager, Mr. A. Ross Gray, and even Mr. A. T. C. McNab, a consultant. Is the minister aware the average cost of these vehicles is \$10,900? Does he not agree the UTDC is flagrantly abusing the taxpayers' dollars? Is this his government's commitment to public transit?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Certainly I am aware of all the things the member mentioned. He posed a question regarding this information during my ministry's estimates last December. It was on December 17, at the committee meeting, that the member asked for certain information regarding the vehicles owned or leased by UTDC.

Only two weeks later on January 4, 1982—and of course the Christmas season intervened—a letter was sent to the chairman of the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments which heard my estimates. It gave the complete information on the vehicles the honourable member is referring to. As I say, there were 28 vehicles which were owned and five others which were leased. One was being sold at that time, leaving a total of 32 vehicles for the corporation. Those are located between Kingston, Toronto and Vancouver.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Don't take public transit.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I have looked over the list of vehicles supplied with interest. It ranges all the way from 1974 to 1982 vehicles. I believe they were all manufactured in North America.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Did Ken Foley get rid of his Mercedes?

Hon. Mr. Snow: In reply to the member from Lake of the Woods—

Mr. T. P. Reid: Rainy Lake.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I am sorry, Rainy River; Lake of the Woods or Rainy River, it is close.

Mr. Foulds: About as close as Kingston and Toronto.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Foley is listed as being the driver of a 1982 Buick. Some of the vehicles are Plymouth Horizon, Chevy Citation, Chevy Impala, Chevrolet, Chevrolet, Ford Granada, Ford Limited, Olds Cutlass. I do not see anything at all about the vehicles that are being operated by the corporation.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is all very interesting. Perhaps the minister would like to table that information for the benefit of everyone.

Hon. Mr. Snow: With great respect, Mr. Speaker, this information was tabled with the chairman on January 4.

Mr. Speaker: Then the question was redundant.

Mr. Mancini: I hope the minister realizes the House was not in session in January, February and part of March. That is why it is being brought up now.

Is the minister further aware the UTDC has purchased outright four houses in the Vancouver area at a cost of \$335,000, \$252,000, \$200,000 and a fourth home at \$250,000 so that its employees may rent this accommodation? Does the minister not agree this is not a function of the UTDC and is a further abuse of the taxpayers? When is he going to put a stop to this flagrant spending by UTDC?

Hon. Mr. Snow: The honourable member likes to dramatize things. As he is such a little fellow he likes to raise his voice so he can be recognized.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I have a lot of trouble with these little fellows. They are usually on my left.

Mr. Speaker: And now to the question, please.

Hon. Mr. Snow: There is no flagrant abuse of public funds in any way whatsoever. There is no problem about the information. The honourable member requested information regarding the houses purchased in Vancouver for the senior staff who had to be relocated to Vancouver. It is part of our contract with the Urban Transit Authority in Vancouver as part of the construction cost. When relocating senior personnel from one major city to another it is a normal thing for a company to assist in establishing housing for them. There is an agreement that those four individuals who are paying rent on the houses at this moment will become part owners through equity sharing in the houses. That information was also given to the honourable member in the letter of January 4.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, how can the minister be so sanguine about the financial affairs of UTDC, and expect it to be able to finance its new plant when it is spending this kind of money on personal benefits for its employees? Will he now undertake an independent investigation into all the financial affairs of UTDC?

Hon. Mr. Snow: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Cunningham: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: On June 21, 1976, the Minister of Transportation and Communications promised the House to keep us informed of all significant developments regarding the UTDC. Will he honour that commitment right now by telling us what was involved in the burnouts and the explosions at the test track in Kingston in the last six weeks?

Mr. Speaker: With all respect, I think that is a new question.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I will table this.

Mr. Speaker: Please do. The minister will table the information.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I happen to have here today a press release issued by UTDC. It is the report of Mr. Jack Harvey, electrical engineer and consultant to UTDC, the former general manager of construction and operations for the Toronto Transit Commission for the past 30 years. Mr. Harvey is a renowned expert in these matters, and I have his report. I am sorry I only have one copy, but I will table it.

VISITOR

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, unless my eyesight fails me, I believe we have the honour of the presence of the mayor of Vancouver in our gallery. On behalf of the members, I would like to welcome him to the Legislature today.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Mancini: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I rise under section 28(a) of the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly to give notice that I am not satisfied with the answers given to me today by the Minister of Transportation and Communications and wish to debate this matter this evening at 10:30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. You will notify the table as provided for under the standing order, please.

MOTIONS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Mr. Gregory moved that, in compliance with section 81 of the Workmen's Compensation Amendment Act, 1973, the annual report of the Workmen's Compensation Board for 1980 be referred to the standing committee on resources development for consideration the

week of March 29, the proceedings of which shall be transcribed by Hansard and appended to the Hansard proceedings of the House.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Gregory moved that, notwithstanding standing order 64(d), Mr. Rotenberg and Mr. Gillies exchange positions in the order of precedence for private members' business to be debated.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Gregory, first reading of Bill 26, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act.

Motion agreed to.

MOTORIZED SNOW VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Gregory, first reading of Bill 27, An Act to amend the Motorized Snow Vehicles Act.

Motion agreed to.

ONTARIO UNCONDITIONAL GRANTS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Henderson moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Bennett, seconded by Hon. Mr. Ashe, first reading of Bill 28, An Act to amend the Ontario Unconditional Grants Act.

Motion agreed to.

MUNICIPALITY OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Henderson moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Bennett, seconded by Hon. Mr. Ashe, first reading of Bill 29, An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act.

Motion agreed to.

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Walker moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Gregory, first reading of Bill 30, An Act to amend the Development Corporations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Walker: The amendments to the Development Corporations Act will widen the financing mechanisms available to the devel-

opment corporations, making them more responsive to the special financial needs of Ontario industry.

3:30 p.m.

Interest subsidies will be made available in support of loans made by a lender, usually a chartered bank or other financial institution. For example, a subsidy up to a maximum of five percentage points in the first year of the loan would substantially ease the burden on the small businessman in today's climate of high interest rates. In very selective situations the development corporations will be able to make grants, but only in cases where it is obvious that significant economic benefit will accrue to Ontario and where the project would not otherwise proceed.

There have been in the past and will be in the future legitimate requests for substantial financial assistance outside the policy guidelines and authority of development corporations. In such circumstances the decisions will be made by the government with the development corporation acting as agent to implement such decisions.

Under the proposed legislation the development corporations will be given wider powers to negotiate or compromise on the terms and conditions of existing loans, where such action is necessary to attract private investment capital, thereby ensuring the survival and viable continuance of existing Ontario industries.

To ensure impartiality in the decision-making process, officials of a municipality, whether elected or employed, will not be eligible for membership on the boards of directors of the development corporations.

SAFETY OF TERMINAL OPERATORS ACT

Mr. Kolyn moved, seconded by Mr. MacQuarrie, first reading of Bill 31, An Act to safeguard Terminal Operators.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Kolyn: The purpose of the bill is to set out standards for terminal and equipment use here-with, eye care for terminal operators and education of operators concerning hazards involved. Rest periods are made a requisite. Reimbursement for cost of required eye care is provided.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amend-

ment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to thank my colleagues in caucus for the honour of electing me deputy leader of the New Democratic Party. You may have noticed that I am enjoying the job and this caucus is enjoying this legislative session.

I want to take this opportunity to speak not only to you, Mr. Speaker, and not only to this Legislature, but also to the people of Ontario. I want to tell the people of Ontario that with our new leader, Bob Rae, this caucus and the entire New Democratic Party across this province is aiming for government in 1985. If we had had any doubts about that at all, last week's speech from the throne finally, totally, irrevocably, erased any of those doubts. We owe it not merely to ourselves and our children, but we owe it to the people of Ontario to aim for and to become the government in 1985.

I have been around this Legislature for 10 years, almost as long as Mr. Davis has been Premier. Throne speeches are notoriously vague, but this is the weakest response I have ever heard of Ontario's most challenging economic circumstances. Just as an aside, I might indicate that my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), who is absent today because last night he received an honour from the papacy when he was knighted in the Order of St. Gregory, has a great admiration and fondness for the rules and precedents of this Legislature, but he could hardly sit in his seat and refrain from heckling the Lieutenant Governor in Council during that speech from the throne, it was such a partisan, weak, bad speech. When a person like the member for Lake Nipigon is driven to that extreme, it must indeed be a serious matter.

The matter of our economy is not a light one. Very simply, we are facing the toughest economic times in Ontario since the Diefenbaker depression in the 1960s and in some areas in our province since the Great Depression of the 1930s. I am convinced from my travels across the province during the last five or six months that the people of Ontario are eager to meet the challenge, are more than willing to work, are desperately looking for leadership and are anxious to build Ontario's economy and their own sense of self-confidence.

All they need is a government willing to give them the tools to do the job. Unfortunately, we

have at the present time a Premier who not only has a toothache and is politically clever, but a premier and a government which lack vision. We have a government that has power and a majority but refuses to use that power and that majority to create jobs, to save homes or farms, or to rescue the victims of high interest rates in the current economic circumstances.

We have in Ontario a government that refuses to meet adequately the needs of those who are suffering the terrible human and social consequences of our economic situation. The Ontario Conservatives have adopted a bunker mentality. They have pulled Ontario's wagons into a circle and are shooting their arrows or guns at the federal Liberals. I suppose we should be thankful, since they are Conservatives, that they are not shooting inwards like their federal counterparts.

Unfortunately for the people of Ontario, fed-bashing has become the only Tory economic strategy, as well as its main political strategy. Bashing the federal Liberals is probably legitimate; they deserve to be bashed. But surely the Ontario government has a responsibility and an obligation to act, to intervene in our economy and to head off the terrible social and human consequences of the present economic circumstances.

The throne speech displayed the most massive abdication of responsibility by a provincial government that I have ever seen in Ontario. It is fair enough to attack the federal government as it too has failed its responsibility to the people of Canada. As the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps) said, "A Liberal is a Liberal is a Liberal." Perhaps the most engaging definition of Liberalism came from one federal member, Pierre Gimaël, recently in the House of Commons. As this House may remember, Mr. Gimaël, the member for Lac Saint-Jean, said recently, "To be a Liberal is first and foremost to be an elected representative, a person whose leitmotiv, whose supreme will, is to provide opportunities for development and progress for all Canadians."

Mr. Ruprecht: What's wrong with that?

Mr. Foulds: There is nothing wrong with that. If he had stopped there, he would have been fine. "In such a situation, anything can be justified."

Mr. MacDonald: What's wrong with that now, Tony?

Mr. Swart: That sounds like Tony.

Mr. Martel: Give that to us again. I want that repeated.

Mr. Foulds: There is nothing wrong with that so far; that is what the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht) said.

Mr. Gimaël said, "In such a situation, anything can be justified." He gets more explicit. Let me go on: "If the development of individual Canadians is to be achieved through socialization, the Liberal Party can turn socialistic. If the development of individual Canadians is to be achieved through a turn to the right, through a strengthening in industry, the Liberal Party can move to the right. If"—now wait for it—"in order to promote our development the Liberal Party thinks we have to be communistic, we shall be communistic."

Now wait for it. This is it, I say to the honourable member for Parkdale. This is quoted from the record in the House of Commons. This is the concluding sentence, "That is what it is all about to be a Liberal."

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Would you carry on with your reply to the speech from the throne.

Mr. Foulds: Let us get back to this government. Let us get back to the Conservative government and its responsibility to Ontario. People lose their farms, their homes and their small businesses and the Premier and his government stand idly by. We have massive plant shutdowns and layoffs in the auto industry, and the Premier and his government stand idly by.

Ministry of Labour figures just released in its January 1982 report show permanent and indefinite layoffs in January 1982 of 1,866 compared to 1,268 in January 1981. That is a shameful increase of 47.2 per cent. We have lumber and sawmill workers and miners in northern Ontario laid off and out of work, and the Premier and the Conservative government stand idly by. The Tory government has a mindless commitment to the megaproject philosophy, instead of looking at the enormous job creation potential in conservation, retrofitting and alternative energy projects.

I want to look for a moment at another throne speech, a different throne speech. I want to take three quotes from that throne speech. One, "The current, unconscionable levels of unemployment which have been forced upon the Canadian people will be combatted with every means at the disposal of this provincial government. The budget will be presented on April 26. Its purpose will be to restore the inherent vitality of our economy."

Two, "Present programs will be intensified and new approaches will be sought to eliminate pollution and prevent further contamination. By court and other actions, the government has already indicated its determination to enforce its policies and is examining other means by which those who pollute can be made to pay for the damage they create." That is pretty good stuff for a throne speech. It is pretty tough.

Three, "The government is determined to assure the adequacy of our energy supplies for the future. It will ensure that the energy is used as efficiently as possible and that its use will not adversely affect the environment, health or life."

Where do you suppose all those quotations come from, Mr. Speaker? Do they come from the government of Saskatchewan or the government of Manitoba or the government of Quebec? No. They come from the government of Ontario. They came from the first speech from the throne in the administration of the Premier dated March 30, 1971. How forceful those statements seemed then. How hollow, weak and inappropriate they seem now. But governments do not have to stand idly by, as the 1982 throne speech implies. Governments with will, determination and courage can act. Governments worthy of their name and worthy of the adjectives decent and humane, do act. I want to say to the people of Ontario that we in the New Democratic Party will act when we become the government of this province.

When we have this situation in Ontario today, when rental accommodation is virtually unavailable, when significant sectors of the farming community perch, apparently forever, on the edge of financial disaster, when more than 500,000 Ontario people are out of work, when home owners are threatened in their basic right to decent shelter, no one can deny that something must be done, that short, medium and long-term strategies must be developed to deal with the problems.

It is easy to blame the federal Liberal government; it is just as easy for the federal Liberals to blame international conditions. But that is not the point of government and that is not the point of leadership. We have been elected and the members opposite have been elected to this House to frame policies and make decisions that can take Ontario to prosperity.

Remember a year ago, Mr. Speaker—and I am sure you especially do—the "Davis can do it" slogan. Where is there any evidence of that in this speech from the throne? What we get in this

speech is an endless game of blaming other people, a game of me too, and that solves no problems at all for the people of Ontario.

Harry Truman said of the American presidency, "The buck stops here." The Premier of Ontario and his government need a large dose of courage to take that attitude, to take responsibility, to be willing to confront the issues head on; to deal with the problems rather than simply to say, as this government seems to be saying, "Oh, our hands are tied; the feds are destroying the economy."

If the creation of a powerful economy, an exciting society, a place for all our workers and all our people to stand, requires resources, skilled workers, a sound infrastructure, then we have all of those here in Ontario. What we do not have is a government willing to take a hand to put all these things together to provide the lead for a growing and prosperous economy. Adam Smith and *laissez-faire* died a long time ago. Why can this government not abandon the old theories and deal with the world as it is now rather than hark back always to a shrivelled past? In this House and on the hustings, the government, that party over there, dares to call us doctrinaire; yet they refuse to face the realities of the modern age, preferring once again to present the old theories and the old clichés.

Let me talk for just a few moments about foreign investment. Implicit throughout the throne speech is the assumption that greater foreign investment can somehow save the Ontario economy. What a perverse understanding of what has happened to Ontario in the last 10 years this is. What utter nonsense, what wrongheadedness. Ontario society is where it is now at least in part because of the obvious and predictable effects of direct foreign investment.

Canadian workers in branch plants are always the first to be sacrificed. The assumption is always made that Canada is a good place to assemble and warehouse goods rather than a place where innovation, research and real development will occur. All members of this House will be aware of the dismal record in research and development. The chickens have come home to roost. We now pay the price for distorted economic development in the 1950s and the 1960s. Two tenths of one per cent of auto research in the North American industry is done in Canada, and we have 10 per cent of the market—a shameful record, repeated over and over again in many sectors of the Canadian economy.

Thousands of jobs are lost and enormous opportunities for building a competitive economy, one that could have taken on the West Germans and the Japanese on their own turf and beat them. Those opportunities have been lost, in some cases perhaps forever.

Let me talk specifically about the auto industry. In the automobile industry, again in the 1950s and 1960s, community after community in the southern parts of this province enjoyed unprecedented boom times. Some would say that here foreign investment made arguments for itself. Yet the other edge of the sword means that Canadians became dependent on the decision-making processes in five huge American firms that have long ago ceased to be genuinely innovative, preferring to produce forever the metal dinosaurs, the huge, expensive cars that rising oil prices made unwanted and irrelevant in the market.

3:50 p.m.

Canada chose to place a significant part of our future into the hands of the American auto giants only to discover that the European and Japanese auto giants were better. In the battle for the world car, for the new markets, for the future of this vital industry, Ontario has been left out in the cold.

In 1970 the United States imported 70 per cent of its auto parts from Canada. Now such imports from our country barely exceed 30 per cent. As early as 1948—remember that date, Mr. Speaker—the United Automobile Workers argued to the American giants that they should begin to produce small cars or lose this market to offshore producers. The auto giants chose not to listen and to stick to a market they thought they had carved up among themselves for ever. They were tragically wrong, and Canadian workers, workers in Ontario communities, now pay the price for that corporate decision-making.

This is the real price of foreign direct investment. We have paid it in many other sectors as well. Let no one have any illusion that further linking of the Ontario economy to the whims of the multinationals will mean significant change in this regard. Let no one make the mistake of assuming that some Sir Galahad, recently weaned from a multinational boardroom, will charge up here to reconstruct the Ontario economy. It will not happen; we have to do it ourselves. In so far as this government believes it will happen, that they will get some rescue from outside, it deserves to be turfed out at the earliest opportunity.

In the face of federal government inaction, the answer must be to seek a measure of self-reliance. More foreign direct investment represents the opposite to self-reliance; it represents bankruptcy in policy-making. There are things which this government can do to breathe new life into the automobile industry.

First, we can pressure the federal government, and I expect with some success, to change the rules so that all major exporters of cars to Canada will be required to include a significant portion of parts sourced in Canada. The figure of 85 per cent has been suggested and that strikes me as a fair figure, and not merely with Japanese cars. The throne speech supported the idea of 85 per cent Canadian content for Japanese cars, but it did not mention that the North American companies are nowhere near that level. We in the New Democratic Party say let us aim for 100 per cent Canadian content in all cars sold in Canada.

Secondly, the Ontario government should commit itself to direct talks with the Big Three to ensure that the parts manufacturing jobs, going everywhere else, stay in Canada. We can move beyond the auto parts technology centre this government has put in place to engage in genuine partnerships with the parts sector, to do the research which can bring up a vibrant Canadian parts sectors which can compete worldwide. We can do that. We have the ability and we have the knowhow. We can become a technologically sophisticated and resourceful society.

Thirdly, this party has already talked in this session about the opportunities which we have immediately to create diesel engine production facilities. We know that the demand for diesel engines exists in Canada and in North America, and the Big Three are importing diesel engines from abroad.

We have the idle Chrysler engine plant in Windsor. We have a manufacturer—Massey-Ferguson—with the technical knowhow to move into this area immediately. We have a skilled work force in Windsor desperate for work. More than 10,500 jobs have been lost in the Windsor area alone in the last few years. By all the traditional economic arguments the factors of production are in place—a plant, willing companies with the technical knowhow to do the job, a skilled work force. What we do not have to this point is the willingness of the government of this province to provide some of the necessary funds.

We in the New Democratic Party propose

that an Ontario crown corporation invest in that diesel plant in a joint venture with Chrysler and Massey-Ferguson. With the spinoff effect, we are talking about 4,000 new jobs, stimulating \$84 million in wages and exports in hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

It is the kind of project Windsor and Ontario need. It is the kind of project that is sensible, productive and bold and one that an NDP government in this province would undertake. If the opportunity exists, why has this government refused to act? Why has it chosen to stand by? Is it committed to an outmoded doctrine which says that government should not intervene directly in the economy? If so, then once again we see the triumph of Tory doctrine over common sense.

I would like to turn my attention now to interest rates. A good part of what is ravaging our economy at this time is the insane interest rate policy of the federal government. The effects are visible around us in declining sales of cars and major appliances. They are visible in layoffs and in the decline of our industrial communities. The effects are visible in the disastrous situation of farmers and small business people. We see it in mortgage foreclosures.

Again, it is simply not good enough just to blame the federal government, Reaganomics, bankers or the oil moguls of Arabia; because there are things this government can do now to ease the situation for ordinary people in Ontario. The New Democratic Party has a five-point program of interest rate relief and stimulation, a program that would put an end to the insecurity and fear felt by so many Ontario home owners, small business owners and farmers.

Time and again this party has called for a moratorium on mortgage foreclosures, and that could help farmers and home owners. We would introduce a program of short-term interest rate relief that would provide grants for up to 30,000 families that have or face mortgage payments of more than 30 per cent of their income.

We would expand the farm assistance program by \$100 million to reach all the farmers who are hit by higher debt charges. In the throne speech the Tories admitted that their own program, in operation less than six weeks, falls far short of what is needed in rural Ontario.

We would introduce a mixed grant/deferred-interest-loan program to help small business. Small business owners are looking for a way to prevent layoffs and permanent closures, but all the throne speech talked about was

venture capital funds and putting small companies on the Toronto Stock Exchange. That does not help the owner of the corner store or small business in my kind of community very much at all.

Time and again over the last several months we in this party have called for the conversion of the Province of Ontario Savings Office into a genuine lending institution that could work to partly isolate farmers, home owners and small businesses from the ravages of usurious interest rates. As always, this provincial Conservative government has failed to respond.

I want to talk next about two problems the government failed to respond to and has ignored in the throne speech. In northern Ontario we have faced and are continuing to face massive layoffs in the wood industry, both on the lumber and sawmill industry side and on the pulp and paper side. Recently my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon learned from the Canada Manpower Centre in Thunder Bay that on April 6 Great Lakes Forest Products woodlands division will be laying off 1,600 employees; Abitibi-Price woodlands division will be laying off 400 employees; the MacMillan Bloedel waferboard plant at Paipoonge will be laying off 200 employees; and the Boise Cascade company, the one this government gave so many grants to, is shutting down its Kenora mill, which will also affect 80 private contractors and lead to the layoff of 775 employees.

Some of these layoffs start at the end of this month. At the present time they are not projected to be permanent layoffs, but the fact that they could last as long as two to four weeks is symbolic of the cyclical difficulty of the economy we face day in and day out in northern Ontario.

4 p.m.

The New Democratic Party has advocated and will continue to advocate a crash reforestation program for this province so that we can achieve two things, the badly needed reforestation and regeneration we need to maintain our forests and our industries, and also the creation of short-term jobs for unemployed woodworkers—not only those I have just mentioned but the hundreds and hundreds my colleague the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) has detailed who were laid off over the past year.

While these layoffs are occurring in northern Ontario, we have ironically a desperate need for housing in this province. Apartment vacancy rates in major urban centres all over the province, including Metro Toronto, are desper-

ately low. The need for socially assisted housing grows. Never have so many stood in need of housing, while there are so many people ready, willing and able to provide the material to build the homes.

We in the New Democratic Party would make a commitment to the housing sector. For example, we would commit \$150 million to increase co-op housing starts and conversions. The program would provide a \$10,000 interest-free loan for every unit constructed or converted. It would stimulate 15,000 new units and increase Ontario's housing starts by up to one third for the 1982 year. The terms of employment these 15,000 units would generate would be about 18,000 direct construction and directly related jobs. In addition, a further 14,000 jobs would be created in indirectly related industries, such as furniture manufacturing, carpeting, drapery and the all important lumber and sawmill industry in northern Ontario.

I do not want anybody across the House to say, "We can't sell our lumber because of the US market." The mills in northern Ontario would be glad to sell their lumber to the market in southern Ontario just as easily as they would to the market in the United States. This program would provide about \$8 million in provincial sales tax, more than \$500 million in wages, more than \$20 million in provincial income tax and \$50 million in federal income tax. It would provide housing at a time when housing is desperately needed.

There is no doubt the program would cost the government some money. The government would have to issue a long-term housing development bond and provide no-interest loans. But the effects of the expenditure, a mere \$150 million, would be very much worthwhile. We would get that back in taxes alone over a five- to 10-year period. In terms of the wages and the dignity provided for people working and in terms of the social need of housing provided it would be a very worthwhile investment.

That is really what the Tories have forgotten. They have forgotten that it is up to government to invest in the province. They have lost their faith in investing in the future of Ontario. In a very short time the political realities of March 19, 1981, have become the harsh economic realities of March 1982. It is almost March 19, just one day off.

Mr. Martel: Help keep the promise.

Mr. Foulds: Davis can do it, help keep the promise.

This government's record in the past year has

been one of failure, one of timidity, one of gutlessness. It has been a failure to respond, a failure to take on its responsibilities. Certainly the speech from the throne typified that failure and that gutlessness. The buck does stop somewhere, and it stops right here in this Legislature with the representatives of the people of Ontario. Surely it is not asking too much of this government to stretch its imagination a little bit, to intervene in the market and to act once again positively and self-reliantly to deal with the crisis.

Let us also ask ourselves how many jobs, how much economic activity has been lost to Ontario, and to northern Ontario specifically, through the exemptions from Ontario processing requirements handed out under the Mining Act by this government. Let us ask how many—

Hon. Mr. Welch: You wrote this, Elie.

Mr. Foulds: No, he didn't. I put it in myself. Remember, I was the Natural Resources critic for three years.

Let us ask ourselves how many jobs have been lost or never created simply because of the unwillingness of this government to intervene years ago to create a genuine mining machinery industry in Ontario. That industry alone could provide 9,500 jobs in Ontario and particularly in the north.

Mr. Martel: It's called import replacement.

Mr. Foulds: That's exactly it. We must not allow ourselves to be seduced by the glamour of the megaprojects, which seem to have become the touchstone of recent economic thinking in Canada. It is true that large numbers of jobs can clearly be created with the construction of tar sands plants in Alberta, both in the west and in Ontario. Similarly I admit that jobs are created by the Ontario government's commitment to the nuclear power program.

But let us take some of the real lessons of the economic success in Canada to heart. The most innovative, the most internationally competitive firms are not those that base their strength and growth on foreign investments or on massive government handouts of corporate welfare. Generally speaking, the most innovative, competitive firms are smaller Canadian firms strongly committed to Canadian-based research and development, carving out for themselves significant chunks of the Canadian, North American and international markets.

The real success stories are in high technology based on the newest and most sophisticated technology. The real success stories you can

find in the Ottawa valley, in the engineers, the researchers and the designers, who produced, for example, the arm for the space shuttle. This Tory government in Ontario must produce a manpower strategy that can ensure a supply of the best, most highly trained craftsmen in the world. No longer can we turn, as we did in George Drew's era, to Britain and Europe for skilled workers.

Aside from homilies in the speech from the throne about how beautiful a job Ontario is doing in training, perhaps we could do something more. This throne speech should have addressed the problem of vast shortages of skilled workers in a serious way. Is that not a great irony in this rich province? Vast numbers of unemployed and vast shortages of skilled workers: a shameful, shameful situation.

A government with vision would realize the need to mobilize our entire society, mobilize all our educational resources in the schools, in the community colleges, in the universities and in industry to provide the skills that can keep a modern industrial economy growing and competitive. But instead of trying to mobilize Ontario the Premier tries to put it to sleep.

Second, real incentives for industrial research and development must be carried out in Ontario and must be provided. What would be wrong with requiring industries to commit a proportion of their income to research? We must ensure that Canada increases its spending on research and development. Of all the western industrialized countries only Ireland and Iceland spend less on research than Canada does. There is one firm in West Germany, Siemens, that has 41 per cent more employees working on research and development than are employed in all of Canada on research and development. The survival of our economy depends on improving this situation.

Someone suggested to me the other day that the current trend of deindustrialization that Ontario is going through is converting our factories into warehouses and our warehouses into parking lots.

Mr. Cooke: And no one can afford them.

Mr. Foulds: And nobody can afford to park in the parking lot any more. That is true, because they have not got a job and they have not got a car.

An hon. member: Except in Markham.

Mr. Foulds: Except in Markham—true. Sunday Morning indicated that just this week.

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, we won't say anything further.

4:10 p.m.

Mr. Foulds: This province must make a fundamental commitment immediately to real energy self-sufficiency which looks to alternatives and to massive increases in conservation. Real jobs can be created in the alternatives and in the conservation sectors. Perhaps more important, real advantages in international trade could be gained if we developed Canadian expertise in fields which at this stage are in their infancy. The potential for a world market is there. Does this government take advantage of that? Not yet, Mr. Speaker.

One of the most distressing stories which has flowed from our failure to take the long view is that of scrubbers for coal-fired electric plants. Mr. Speaker, do you remember reading during the break between sessions that Ontario Hydro paid for the initial research, went a long way towards perfecting the designs and then, for the lack of the commitment of \$10 million, allowed the technology and the people who designed it to migrate to the United States? Now we are faced with the prospect of buying back the products of our own research. This must not be allowed to happen again, ever. Once again there is that one example, an example of a government agency failing to take its long-term responsibilities seriously.

There may well be a place for the vast developments which produce essential commodities and many jobs. There may well be a place for the megaprojects. But let us never forget that almost half our people work for small businesses. And let us never forget that the evidence in Canada suggests that smaller firms tend to be much more innovative, much more farsighted in their commitment to research and technology. The future of this province depends upon encouraging the growth in this sector.

I now want to turn to the most striking irony and contradiction in the speech from the throne. Aside from fed-bashing, the speech from the throne spent more time on the importance of the tourist industry than on any other single subject. Yet when it comes to dealing with the largest single threat to the tourist industry and our environment, acid rain, the government merely says it is proud that Ontario Hydro will obey the law when it comes to emissions.

Mr. Wildman: Whoopee.

Mr. Foulds: Whoopee. Whatever that law says. I have in my printed text a variation of the interjection from my friend the member for Algoma. If I may use the vernacular, "big deal." This is an area where the Minister of the

Environment (Mr. Norton) has totally abdicated his responsibility once again by refusing to subject to an environmental hearing the proposal to export power to Ohio under Lake Erie.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Name one other jurisdiction—

Mr. Foulds: This government has the legislation; why does it not use it? What does the Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch) have to hide? What is he afraid of? Why does he not let us have an environmental assessment hearing? What is he trying to cover up? In this province we have the best environmental protection legislation in the country, perhaps on the continent. Unfortunately we never use it. Time and again the government exempts its own agencies from assessment under that legislation.

Mr. Martel: If Hydro is so good what are you worrying about?

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order.

Mr. Foulds: My colleague the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) says, and I want to get it on the record: "It is like the Soviet constitution; it protects civil rights." Big deal.

A concern for the health of the environment is fundamental, perhaps the longest term commitment we can and have to make. The indiscriminate dumping of poisons as exemplified, for example, by the activities of the Hooker Chemical Co. in New York, destroys the potential for life of countless future generations. Out of the megaproject mentality come projects such as the underwater cable to export power to Ohio through Lake Erie.

Hydro proposes to sell electricity produced here, often burning American coal. Then it has the government's agreement to be exempted from an environmental assessment. Is it any wonder the people of this province are cynical about the government's commitment to the environment? Does this government not want the people of Ontario to know what the social, economic and environmental facts of that project might be? Is it not interested in ensuring damage will not be done to our lakes? Is the government so desperate to find some reason for the existence of Nanticoke that it simply does not want to know? Is it blind to the enormous public concern over acid rain emissions?

At the same time members of the cabinet muse about the possibility of building nuclear plants here to supply the United States with power. These thoughts must never move beyond the musing stage. Consider the insanity of

producing waste here so the American economy can perhaps be more competitive than ours and more competitive in relation to ours. What a self-destructive set of priorities.

In creating a good environment and improving the lives of our citizens, the government must look to such questions as occupational health and safety, severance pay legislation, equal pay for work of equal value and the availability of sufficient day care places to allow as much participation in the labour force by women as they choose, and also by the thousands of single fathers in our society.

It is obvious from the issues already raised in this session of the House—such as the issue of salmonella in Peterborough Civic Hospital, such as the question of safety in the work place, in the government's own offices in the Ministry of the Attorney General—that the government has been lax in ensuring the safety of the community and the work place environment of its citizens.

From my personal experience in running for the leadership of my own party during the last six months, and from my entire experience as a life-long resident of this province, I know the people of Ontario are looking for leadership. What do they get from the speech from the throne? What they get is a total abdication of responsibility.

The New Democratic Party is willing and able to take responsibility for the future of this province. We have offered positive suggestions to create jobs, to bring interest rates under control, to develop the manufacturing sector, especially in the automobile and resource industries, to develop much-needed housing and to protect our environment.

The New Democratic Party believes this is a rich and resourceful province with a rich and resourceful people. We need to combine the enormous resources of northern Ontario, the tremendous agricultural resources of southern Ontario in the Niagara Peninsula and the manufacturing capabilities that lie idle in our urban communities, along with our great human resources, to create wealth not merely for the sake of creating wealth, but to use that wealth so people can lead lives of dignity and joy.

The New Democratic Party wants in Ontario a place where our native people can feel at one with their land and with the rest of us. We want the kind of Ontario where the lakes, rivers and streams are safe for drinking, fishing and swimming. We want the kind of Ontario where senior citizens and single parents can live in

dignity instead of being made to feel guilty for the pittance they receive from the social assistance programs of the province.

We want the kind of Ontario where men and women can experience the dignity of a job and a home, an Ontario where schools, hospitals and social agencies get the funding they need and deserve, an Ontario where the cabinet has to put on a bake sale to get a jet it does not need.

We want the kind of Ontario where workers have a right to a safe community and a safe and decent work place and where senior citizens have the right to a secure and independent income. We believe that is the kind of province the people of Ontario want. We will not rest until we have achieved that kind of Ontario.

4:20 p.m.

If the Premier does not have the decency to move over to make way for the member for Eglinton (Mr. McMurtry) or the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) or the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell), he had better move over for us, because I want the people of Ontario to know that we in the New Democratic Party are aiming for government in 1985. I want Mr. Davis to know he had better move over, because the New Democratic Party is coming through.

The Acting Speaker: Mr. Foulds moves, seconded by Mr. Martel, that the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session be further amended by adding thereto the following:

"This government further regrets that the speech from the throne fails to recognize the province's own authority and jurisdictional responsibility to take action to relieve the social and human consequences of our economic situation, or to combat the devastating effects of the federal government's high interest rate policy and the resulting unemployment.

"And, further, this House condemns the government for failing:

"(a) To create a crown corporation in the auto parts sector to achieve Canada's fair share and which would take as its first responsibility the formation of a consortium with Massey-Ferguson and Chrysler to create a diesel engine facility in Windsor;

"(b) To move into an ownership role in the resource sector;

"(c) To take steps to initiate an interest rate relief program for farmers, small business and home owners;

"(d) To establish a moratorium on foreclosures of property, as has been done by the provincial governments in Saskatchewan and Manitoba;

"(e) To safeguard and enhance the health care and social service systems of this province.

"Finally, this House condemns the government for failing its responsibility to protect adequately the community and work environments of its citizens. It specifically condemns the government for exempting from an environmental assessment Ontario Hydro's project for an underwater cable to export electrical power to the United States. Therefore this government has lost the confidence of this House."

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

The Acting Speaker: I beg to inform the House that pursuant to standing order 28, the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Minister of Transportation and Communication (Mr. Snow) concerning the Urban Transportation Development Corp. This matter will be debated at 10:30 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Mr. Sheppard: Mr. Speaker, I have been looking forward to this opportunity take part in this debate on the speech from the throne for almost a year. I was ready to address the House on the 1981 throne speech, but since my name comes towards the end of the alphabet there were too many others ahead of me on the list at that time. I consider it an honour and privilege, nonetheless, as the member for the riding of Northumberland, to have the opportunity to rise today to reply to the 1982 speech from the throne.

May I begin, Mr. Speaker, by saying what a fine job you are doing. Being Speaker is not easy, as you have discovered, but I think you have acquitted yourself admirably in your new responsibility. Your calm and conscientious handling of this often unruly Legislature has made the people of Peterborough particularly proud.

There must be something special about the counties of Peterborough and Northumberland; two of this Legislature's last three Speakers have come from our part of the province. The Speaker lives just to the north of my riding and

the predecessor of Mr. Speaker Stokes, Russell Rowe, was our representative in Northumberland until his retirement last year.

Recently, at a testimonial dinner in the riding, the people of Northumberland were able to express their appreciation to Russell Rowe for the fine representation he gave us for 17 and a half years. Some of the members were there on the night to wish Russell all the best. It was certainly not a farewell, since Russ will always keep in touch with his old friends at Queen's Park. In fact, I know a number of the members greeted him last week when he came down for the opening of parliament.

Before concluding my tributes I would like to express my personal admiration for the Premier (Mr. Davis) as he enters his 11th year as the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in Ontario and of this government. The Premier is more than a fine provincial leader. He is a national figure, admired and respected by his provincial counterparts from coast to coast. The pivotal part he played in the constitutional discussions leading up to the November 5 agreement exemplified the dominant role he has taken in the affairs of this nation since he became Premier in 1971.

The leadership he demonstrated in helping to resolve the thorny problems arising out of the constitutional discussions is now once again in great demand as we attempt to deal with the economic difficulties. He has been at the forefront in trying to persuade the government of Canada to reconsider the devastating high interest policy, its disastrous budget and its punitive proposal to cut transfer payments to the provinces for health, social services and post-secondary education.

Trying to persuade Ottawa to rethink anything often seems as useful as spitting in the wind, but persistence has been known to pay off. I know the Premier of Ontario will not give up in his attempts to persuade the government of Canada to join with us in rebuilding our economy in a spirit of co-operation and competence.

I mentioned earlier that the east-central area of the province, part of which I represent, must have some special quality for us to have been blessed with two of the last three Speakers. At the risk of sounding even more chauvinistic—and I am not talking about being a male chauvinist, in case the women in the chamber are concerned—I must tell members that my birthplace, the little village of Codrington, can claim not just myself, but two former parliamentari-

ans, as native sons. I am referring to William Arthur Goodfellow, who represented the riding of Northumberland in this House between 1943 and 1963, during which time he held no less than four cabinet posts, and to Major James Belford, the area's representative in Ottawa from 1923 to 1925. The three of us grew up within a half-mile of each other. Bill Goodfellow is the only living member of the cabinet of January 7, 1947. I was both touched and honoured when, after being elected last March, Bill wrote to congratulate me.

I trust I will be able to represent Northumberland as ably and as long as my illustrious predecessors. Although I grew up in Codrington in the central area of Northumberland county I have lived for many years in Alnwick township on the southern shore of Rice Lake at the northern boundary of my riding. To the north and south of my village of Roseneath is the Alderville Indian Reserve. This community of Mississauga Indians is one of the finest reserves in Ontario. The native people of Canada have contributed so much to this country that I find it sad that their rights are not sufficiently protected in the new constitution.

Our government supported the inclusion of native rights throughout the constitutional process and I know we will be just as supportive on this matter at the first ministers' conference that is due to take place within a year of the constitution act coming into effect. I strongly believe that in future discussions, our native people will be treated fairly.

The Alderville reserve is located on good, arable soil. A lot of the reserve land is rented out to be worked by local farmers like myself. A number of highly educated people have come from this reserve. Two that immediately spring to mind are Jack Beaver and Al Bigwin.

Jack was one of the chief engineers at Churchill Falls before he retired, and I am pleased to say he is back in the county living near Cobourg. Al has made a name for himself closer to home. He worked for our Ministry of Education as an education officer in the policy analysis and legislation branch at Queen's Park.

4:30 p.m.

It is people like Jack Beaver, Al Bigwin, Bill Goodfellow and Russell Rowe who make me proud to hail from the rolling hills of old Northumberland. Our country's similarity to its northern England namesake is evident everywhere. It is evident from townships and small villages with the same names, such as Alnwick, to the rolling hills, bubbling streams, rocky

outcroppings and wooded areas of our picturesque countryside, which so closely resembles the landscape on the other side of the Atlantic.

As a dairy farmer, I naturally have a special attachment to the soil. My farming activities over the years have led me to be involved in a number of local agricultural organizations. I have also had the privilege of serving on the Ontario Milk Marketing Board and the Dairy Farmers of Canada. I feel confident, as a result, that I can speak with some authority about my riding's agricultural concerns.

I am equally well equipped, if I may say so, to talk about issues in the riding's urban centres and its schools. I served for a number of terms on the Alnwick township council and later on the Northumberland county council, where I was deputy reeve for a short period of time. Before that, I was a school trustee for 16 years. My long involvement in municipal life, I believe, helps me to convey the concerns of Northumberland to this Legislature and enables me to speak with firsthand knowledge and some empathy about local problems.

Since the election I have continued to work closely with the Northumberland county council, and my time sitting on that body has facilitated that relationship. It is a strong council that provides Northumberland's municipalities with responsible and responsive representation, and I am grateful for the council members' input when discussing matters of mutual concern.

As I mentioned, Northumberland county is both a rural and an urban area. We are blessed with prime agricultural land in the central and northern areas, while to the south, down along Lake Ontario, we have three bustling industrial centres in Port Hope, Cobourg and Brighton.

Despite the importance of these three centres to our economy, agriculture and tourism remain the major industries in Northumberland. Agriculture is our largest business. We are fortunate to have a thriving dairy industry with more than 300 independent dairy farmers operating throughout the county. As well as being a major provider of Ontario milk, Northumberland is noted for the great Canadian cheddar cheese it produces.

Our dairy farmers are doing quite well. As a former member of the milk marketing board and a dairy farmer myself, I feel I can make that statement with confidence and some firsthand knowledge of the situation. Unfortunately, our beef and hog farmers are not as well situated. With the price of cattle and hogs down right now, the beef and hog men have been hard hit.

Many of the difficulties facing our agricultural community, not just in Northumberland but across the province, are being made a lot worse by federal actions and inaction. We can lay the blame for our record high interest rates on the federal government and on the federal government alone. These punishing rates are hurting all sectors of the economy, not the least of which is the agricultural community.

The farmers are caught in a double bind. On the one hand, our own Ministry of Agriculture and Food has encouraged them to specialize and expand their operations, but to do this many have had to assume considerable capital debts. These debts need servicing, and the current high interest rates sanctioned by Ottawa are proving simply devastating. No wonder there is little incentive for many of our farmers to do more than try to keep their heads above water. Yet without farming the towns in my riding like Campbellford, could not survive. They are very much one-industry communities.

In the past year the Ontario government has stepped into the breach to provide major financial support to the Ontario beef industry. I know the Ministry of Agriculture and Food emergency payments to the beef producers in Northumberland county have been very much appreciated. To date more than \$675,000 in emergency payments have been paid out to the producers of slaughter and stocker cattle and cow-calf operators in Northumberland county.

As well, the farm assistance adjustment program, brought in just before Christmas to reduce the impact of skyrocketing interest rates and maintain the supply of working capital for farmers, has also been most welcome. I am very pleased to see this program has now been broadened to help a greater number of farmers to keep their operations afloat.

In view of the inadequacy of the federal aid mechanisms, such as the Farm Credit Corp. and small business bonds, it seems that Ontario is the only level of government maintaining a commitment to the vital agricultural sector. Unlike Ottawa, our government recognizes the importance of the agricultural sector to the national and local economy and values highly the substantial contribution which the farming community makes to the economic and physical health of this province and this country.

Tourism, as I mentioned earlier, is Northumberland's second largest industry. Bounded by water in the form of lakes and rivers on three sides, water-related recreational opportunities abound in Northumberland. With the Trent and

Murray canal systems weaving along the northern and the eastern boundaries of the riding, we are fortunate to attract a goodly number of pleasure boaters in the summer months. The communities along the canals benefit substantially from this seasonal trade and the local people enjoy providing hospitality to the thousands of visitors who come to us each year, not just from elsewhere in Ontario but from across Canada and parts of the United States.

Sports fishermen also come to Northumberland in large numbers. Some of Ontario's best sport fishing areas are situated along the Trent Canal. Rice Lake, where I live, is world renowned as the home of the mighty muskie. Needless to say, I was delighted to learn recently that the Harwood creamery, near Harwood in the Rice Lake area, has been chosen as the site for a new fish hatchery. It is all the more exciting for our area when one realizes that we were among 500 candidates in the running for this facility.

Design and construction work on the \$5-million hatchery is to take place over the next four years and, once completed, it is expected that as many as 750,000 rainbow and lake trout will be hatched each year for planting in Lake Ontario and local streams. Negotiations with some of the major land owners are already under way with an option having been placed on two parcels of land, including Goose Creek Farm, and we expect the remaining property will be acquired shortly.

The Ministry of Natural Resources during the past year also approved the development of an administration centre and workshop complex for the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority. The new structure is to be built on a nine-acre site outside of Port Hope which was donated by the town. It will accommodate under one roof all the offices and equipment storage space now scattered around in four different areas.

Ontario provincial parks are among the finest in the world, and we in Northumberland are fortunate to have two of the province's most beautiful parks in our area. I am talking about Presqu'ile Park on Lake Ontario near Brighton and the Ferris Park near Campbellford. With the tabling of the report of the task force on parks system planning by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) last week, we now know that Ontario's already excellent park system will become even better as the result of the significant expansion proposed.

4:40 p.m.

While outdoor recreation facilities in Northumberland provide residents and visitors alike with many wonderful leisure-time activities, Northumberland also has a number of historical structures that attract many tourists. Perhaps the best known and certainly one of the most beautiful is Victoria Hall in Cobourg. This stately reminder of our province's past is in the process of an extensive restoration to return it to its former glory. Over the past year a capital grant of more than \$900,000 was provided by Wintario for the third phase of this restoration.

Although agriculture and tourism will no doubt continue to be the dominant economic forces in Northumberland, we badly need new industry to balance our economy. We should have no trouble attracting this industry because we are ideally situated on the eastern border of the Golden Horseshoe. The major thoroughway between Toronto and Montreal, Highway 401, runs through the county, and Cobourg, Port Hope and Brighton are all well served by major rail lines. In addition, there are port facilities at both Cobourg and Port Hope.

A major spur to the industrial development we need was recently provided when our government made a commitment to fund the Cobourg sewage treatment plant. In promising Cobourg almost \$7.5 million for this project, the Ministry of Treasury and Economics will be providing the largest grant ever to a community of Cobourg's size. Ontario is certainly picking up the lion's share of the project's \$15.5 million cost. When it is finished, I am hopeful this facility will attract more industrial development to the area.

However, it is the feeling in Northumberland that our economy requires federal assistance of the kind that was available under the Department of Regional Economic Expansion program. Under that program, federal moneys were redistributed to those regions in Canada in need of additional development to boost their economies. Although only the eastern areas of Ontario qualified for that assistance, it was my feeling and that of my colleague the member for Muskoka and our Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) that some parts of the central region of our province should qualify for this assistance as well because of our demonstrated need.

Mr. Wildman: You just said you were in the Golden Horseshoe.

Mr. Sheppard: I said at the eastern end of the Golden Horseshoe.

Now that DREE has been replaced by a more all-encompassing federal entity, the Depart-

ment of Regional Industrial Expansion, I intend to redouble my efforts to obtain assistance from this source for Northumberland county. I am continuing to work closely with the Treasurer in this regard and together we are hoping to persuade Ottawa to assist our respective areas under this new program.

Meanwhile, Ontario's economic strategy, which is being implemented by the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, is providing opportunities for growth and development throughout this province with the eastern part of Ontario having been the beneficiary of a number of initiatives in the past year.

In some cases, individual businessmen have benefited from BILD, as in the case of an apple grower from my riding who recently received a grant under the new program to assist fruit and vegetable growers with storage and packaging of their produce. In other cases, municipalities have been assisted with the cost of badly needed local projects. For instance, more than \$30,000 in funds under BILD's marina program has gone to the town of Port Hope.

In still other instances, the whole region stands to gain, as is the case with the massive \$300,000 BILD grant to Loyalist College for a videotex training centre. Although Loyalist College is located east of Northumberland in Belleville, it serves my riding and many others in the surrounding area. As the only college in North America offering a course in videotex, Loyalist is able to provide three training programs with the BILD funding. They involve the marketing of this computer-based information system, its maintenance, installation and programming.

In these times when the economy is foremost in our thoughts, there is a tendency for governments to place less emphasis on social or human services. Not so in Ontario. Our social service system continues to be the best in Canada and one of the most responsive in the world. The range of social services in Northumberland is of the highest quality, thanks to the dedication of the local people who run them and the contribution of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Health and other government ministries.

In the past year I had the pleasure of assisting in opening the Legion Village in Cobourg. This fine new facility for senior citizens and the disabled was made possible through the foresight, dedication and planning of Branch 133 of the Royal Canadian Legion and its president Sam Blower. Our government's rent-gear-to-

income program is being employed to subsidize 60 of the 125 senior citizen units, which will allow people from all income levels to live in the village. Already there are plans to expand the village, with 43 more senior citizen units and 30 units with extended care facilities proposed.

Port Hope and Cobourg are the locations of Northumberland's two retarded children's centres. These centres provide our developmentally handicapped young people with the best possible environment in which to achieve their full potential.

I could go on and on about the area I represent and the achievements since I was elected, but I will conclude my remarks by saying that the last 12 months have probably been the most satisfying I have ever had. Dealing with the concerns of my area as a provincial representative has been a challenging and rewarding responsibility and one which I look forward to pursuing with vigour during the coming months and years.

I would like to say how much I appreciate having been able to speak today in response to the speech from the throne. I hope my comments have shed some light on the area I so proudly represent. Many of the challenges facing Northumberland are common to other counties and constituencies in Ontario. This is why I value the opportunity given me by the people of Northumberland to represent them in this House so that together, regardless of party affiliation, we can work towards meeting these challenges in the most constructive, cost-efficient and time-saving way possible. I look forward to making my contribution to the work of this House in this session and in the many sessions to follow.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address myself to the speech from the throne. First, I would like to congratulate the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) on winning the leadership of our party. His vision of a new Ontario will no doubt win the day in 1985, and I am very confident that we in the Liberal Party will form the new government in order to continue in—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Ruprecht: —the vision that our leader had so eloquently discussed through his election campaign.

His vision—and we share in his vision—is, first, that we want a strong economy in Ontario

because we realize full well that only a strong economy can pay for services of all kinds and, second, that we want to work towards a humane, caring, compassionate society.

You will realize, Mr. Speaker, that we had four other tremendous candidates. I am sure it is a sign of the strength of our party to have candidates of such calibre. That is why I am becoming more convinced as the day progresses that the Liberal Party will indeed form the next government, simply because this party is the only alternative clearly stated to what is going on in Ontario today.

I would also congratulate Bob Rae on winning the leadership campaign of the NDP, although I must quite honestly admit that I admired the campaigns of the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) and the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston). I wish them well.

4:50 p.m.

I want to turn now to the most pressing problem in Ontario today, and that is our economy. Ontario's stagnant economy is producing nothing but misery for thousands of Ontario workers and their families. The mind can barely comprehend the human toll of 375,000 people out of work. Just imagine the number, more than a quarter of a million people out of work in Ontario. That is not keeping the promise.

Sector after sector of the provincial economy reflects the same dismal picture. In the construction industry in Ontario today, there are 51,000 people out of work; in manufacturing, we have lost 98,000 jobs in the last two months; nearly 7,000 forestry workers are out of work in northern Ontario; and on and on goes the litany. Each month the provincial labour statistics are worse than the month before.

Ontario Ministry of Labour figures released in January 1982 show there were 21,565 permanent or indefinite layoffs in Ontario by December 31, 1981, compared with 10,347 by the end of September. This marks a 108 per cent increase over the previous nine months. This does not include thousands of temporary layoffs in the auto, appliance, farm machinery and lumber industries.

I say creating jobs is the top priority. Why? Because we cannot afford the human cost of joblessness. That cost is measured not in statistics, but in the reality of shattered dreams. It is measured in the fact that more than 68,000 Ontarians left Ontario in the last two years. Many of them are skilled young people, our

most precious resource. They take with them the energy and talent that could be put to work to revitalize the economy of this province. It is also measured in the bankruptcy of a record number of family farms last year and serious debt conditions that now imperil some 6,600 Ontario farmers, a figure the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food acknowledges as accurate. It is measured in growing anxiety across this province, in family breakdown, in foreclosures of family homes, in business failures, in children going to school hungry, in alcoholism—in short, in depression.

What are the answers of the Premier (Mr. Davis) to our economic problems? Mr. Davis explained recently to the Canadian Club of Toronto that Ontario's problems, be they bankruptcies, layoffs or poverty, are really national. He said, "Canadians across the length and breadth of this nation share the same concerns, feel the same problems and read the same headlines." I am frankly tired of William "it's-not-my-fault" Davis pointing his wary finger at others. I say it is time for the Premier and his band of highly paid buck-passers to stop bellyaching and start looking at what Ontario can do.

We all know answer number two, which was to buy 25 per cent of an American oil company, most of whose Canadian assets are not in Ontario. The logic of this decision is quite astonishing. Two weeks ago the Premier, the same individual who authorized Suncor, conceded: "Provincial budgets, already strained by adverse economic conditions, high interest rates and, most importantly, the need to redress the social fallout of rising unemployment, will be required to either reduce the level of social services or to raise taxes."

If so, why choose this time in history to buy 25 per cent of an oil company? Does the Premier clearly recognize that provincial budgets are already strained? In fact, few are as strained as the Ontario budget with a deficit of more than \$1.4 billion. Does it not seem misguided to so spend this money, which will amount to \$2 billion over the next 10 years when we take into account the compound interest, to fund a project that will not provide a single job in Ontario?

A week ago the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) revealed the Premier's third answer to Ontario's economic problems. Faced with the consequences of unwise spending, the government has indicated it intends to raise more revenue. Last year the province raised personal income

tax from 44 per cent to 46 per cent of the federal share—not to mention the province's ad valorem tax, which increases Ontario's tax take every time the federal oil price goes up. Just last week we were told in the speech from the throne to expect a hard budget in 1982. The only choice left to the government, the Treasurer said, was to raise or borrow more money.

It is very clear where this government has failed. I very much regret, and my party shares this regret 100 per cent, that the speech from the throne fails to recognize the most serious and fundamental problems facing Ontario today; that is, it fails to develop programs to ensure adequate job creation and to protect Ontario workers from the continued decline in employment prospects.

It also fails inasmuch as it makes no new or increased support towards the preservation of Ontario's health, social services and education sectors—specifically for hospitals, day care, services for the elderly and post-secondary institutions. As the member for Parkdale, I can testify that these kinds of approaches by this government create a great amount of frustration, fear, uncertainty and poverty in the west end of Toronto.

This government fails because it presents no specific programs to help small businesses, farmers, home owners and tenants to deal with the record high interest rates. All of us in this House can testify to the bankruptcy of the government's ideas. Lastly, this throne speech refuses to recognize Ontario's need for massive retraining programs for Ontario workers.

I would like to tell members about the provincial Liberal Party policy for the future of Ontario which I think will recognize the realities of March 19, 1981. I am sure the ideas of our party will create the jobs that are necessary to provide the strong economy needed to pay for the essential social services required throughout Ontario.

Let us be realistic. The way to create jobs in Ontario is not by throwing problems into the lap of another jurisdiction, which is being done by speaker after speaker from the government benches. For some reason they seem to think that the only government with power in all of Canada, including Ontario, is the government in Ottawa. We know that is not the case. The responses that are necessary for Ontario rest within the jurisdiction of this government.

The reason for the government's lack of action is very clear. It is because this government is bankrupt and bereft of any ideas to bring

this economy back to normality where we can be proud to be Ontarians. That happens to be a fact.

5 p.m.

We do not have to spend scarce provincial dollars in speculative ventures we can ill afford. Certainly I do not think it should be necessary to raise taxes. Why do I say this? When we examine the purchases of Suncor shares and of the "infamous jet," we realize there are millions of dollars that could be spent much more productively. Whenever this jet comes back from Dallas, Texas, where it is being refurbished at present, where the 24-seat capacity is being reduced to eight, there should be such an uproar in this Legislature and by the people of Ontario that the government should be told to sell the jet and spend the money on some social services or on other services to help people with their mortgages or small businesses going bankrupt. Those should be the first priorities of this government, not spending money on a jet that is completely unessential.

I joined the ranks of this Legislature a year ago, and I simply cannot understand how this kind of expenditure can be authorized by a government when its social services are so strained, when our hospitals and mental institutions are under such strain and stress that people have to suffer. How can this government expect people to understand such a purchase? How can it authorize such a purchase under these kinds of conditions? I think history will judge this government to be grossly at fault, and I repeat, grossly at fault, because it has no humane understanding of what takes place only a few blocks from this Legislature, where people sleep in garages, under bridges and inside city hall where the heating ducts are located.

How could such an expenditure be justified when we know there are other planes available that could do the job just as adequately?

I do not want to continue on about the wasteful expenditure and speculation that went on with Suncor, because we could go on for days talking about that one item in itself. It shows a brazen, complete misunderstanding of what the people of Ontario want and the expenditure on this specific purchase will never be understood by the people of Ontario. I am sure that in 1985 we will see the people of this province put the "X" where it really counts; and that will be against those people who are now smiling and not really understanding the suffering the province is going through in this time in history.

What we need to do is build for the future.

Our priorities should centre on different kinds of building and on expenditures other than those of the jet and of Suncor. There should be building blocks that create a skilled labour force to meet industry needs and to enable young people to find fulfilling work.

Last year, 290 Ontario Scholars, high school graduates with grades over 80 per cent, were refused admittance to the University of Waterloo's engineering program. That is a fact that can be verified and it is but one tiny illustration of the mammoth problem.

The Ontario Manpower Commission estimates that by 1986 the province will have a shortfall of over 40,000 highly skilled workers, plus 20,000 to 47,000 less skilled workers by 1986. The province's microelectronics industry alone will require 14,000 skilled engineers, technicians and computer programmers by 1985.

What the government should do is clear. It should introduce the necessary apprenticeship incentives. That is not being done. The members opposite should provide the manpower co-ordination at both the provincial and municipal levels. They should fund universities and community colleges so they can provide effective, high quality job training programs.

We must provide retraining programs for those whose talents and skills are becoming redundant due to technological changes as well. Alongside the predicted shortages of skilled labour, the Ontario Manpower Commission predicts there will be an oversupply of 160,000 white-collar workers by 1986. Clearly, the government must act to provide training programs for a labour force whose skills are becoming increasingly obsolete.

We should invest in the industries of the future. For example, we need to exploit the coming off-oil fuel revolution in road transport. All of us know that in 20 years the cars and trucks we drive will not be powered by gasoline. Today, cars burn 35 per cent of the petroleum we use in Canada. Existing programs to get off oil and on to alternative fuels have so far made only a small impact on the automobile industry.

The main barrier in the view of automobile makers is consumer confidence and familiarity. How can one believe the claims made by propane with so few propane-fueled vehicles on the road? In this party, we have mentioned propane for cars as a good bridge to the long-term energy security offered by nonfossil fuels. If we can switch one fifth of Canada's

automobiles to propane and other alternative fuels over the next five years, we will reduce our dependence on imported oil by 28 per cent.

On this side of the House, we support introducing a fuel alcohol development program as a major part of a comprehensive energy conservation and renewable energy policy—the production of a fuel alcohol car engine, commercial use of gasoline blended with fuel alcohol, use of fuel alcohol in industry and use of fuel alcohol to meet most farm energy needs. These objectives could be met through joint ventures of industry, government and universities.

Of course, there is other potential for job creation projects. I am sure many members in my party will address themselves to those areas such as reforestation, waste resource management and the tourism industry, just to name a few.

I would now like to shift the focus to a most pressing problem in the city of Toronto, that of tax reassessment. At this moment, the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe) and an army of 110 property tax assessors are organizing an unprecedented campaign against Toronto home owners. Mass reassessment is the government's latest bully tactic to force Toronto to accept market value assessment. The minister imported tax assessors from all over Ontario to blitz 500,000 Metro properties beginning February 15.

One might ask what is the problem with that? Why import people from all over the province to do Toronto's tax assessment? There is something wrong with that. Bringing people here will cost the taxpayers a lot of money. I have a letter here that went from the Ontario government to one of the assessors in an unnamed city. It says in the fifth paragraph: "You, Mr. Tax Assessor, will be given an advance of \$1,000 which should cover your subsistence requirements for a two-week period."

5:10 p.m.

We are talking about saving taxpayers money; we are talking about assessments in the city of Toronto, and yet we are spending \$1,000 every two weeks to import—and I say "import" quite reluctantly—from all over this province to campaign and to terrorize the citizens of this city—and I do not say this lightly—and to throw many of those residents who have received extra increases on to the street. If you think I am exaggerating, Mr. Speaker, I am not. I can, if you or any member asks me, provide you with

some cases where people are unable to pay their taxes, people in the city are unable to pay their mortgages and are forced by these tactics of the Minister of Revenue, with the support of this government, to sell their homes. If you want proof, I will provide you with the proof. Just ask me.

This government is ignoring Toronto city council's efforts to work out a fair way of reforming property taxes. The city's plan is promised for tonight, but the Minister of Revenue has made a radical departure from existing practice. The city of Toronto does have a tax committee to study under which system and in which way it wants to be taxed. To make it very clear, the city of Toronto has never asked the Minister of Revenue to come in through the back door, and, in a very devious way, introduce market value assessment. I do not think anyone is going to deny that. The Assessment Act clearly gives the initiative to the city of Toronto to request market value assessment. The province is trying to speed up the change at the expense of thousands of residents who have been hit with big tax increases, discriminatory tax hikes, which began in December 1981 when the minister began his very unfair campaign.

What are the facts here? The facts are that an estimated 9,000 Toronto home owners who did renovations in excess of \$2,500 were given assessment increases ranging up to 591 per cent. Those are the facts. Mr. Speaker, I do not know what your other income is, but with the salary you are getting from this Legislature on a full-time basis, how can you pay an increase of 300 per cent, never mind 591 per cent? Would you, in your own mind, be able to justify such an increase? Would you, through your own pocketbook, be able to pay for such an increase, or would you have to sell your house and go bankrupt? That is the question we are going to be asking the Minister of Revenue, and he is very good at stonewalling these very questions and these very concerns of the residents of this great city, Toronto.

The newest assessments were grossly unfair. Instead of simply raising the assessments proportionate to the value of the improvements made, the minister used renovations as an excuse to reassess the entire house. Do you know something else? Some provincial assessors did not even enter the houses, as is admitted by Mr. Thompson himself, who is in charge of the assessments in this area. How did they do it? They based their reassessments on external appearances. Several of these assessments were

hastily rolled back when home owners complained and assessors were forced to do re-examinations.

The Ontario Liberal Party has called on the Ontario government to declare a one-year ban on discriminatory reassessments in Toronto and to revoke all such reassessments made in 1981. We are calling on the government to reassess for renovations on a city-wide basis with no single neighbourhood or area singled out for punishment. Secondly, we are asking that the renovation figure be raised from \$2,500 to \$7,500 in order to keep alive the incentive to make home repairs.

Mr. Speaker, you and I both know, and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) knows even better, which houses were omitted from this reassessment project and did not receive any increase even though their renovations cost from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Every member in this House knows which houses were left out; that is why we in the Liberal Party say these assessments are grossly unfair. Some neighbourhood has been left out in the process of reassessment.

Some of our ethnic people, some of our Portuguese friends in this city, have turned slum areas into areas of beauty. Yet the minister is bringing in hundreds of assessors from all over Ontario to raise the property taxes of these people. What he is doing is penalizing the very people who work, day after day, to renovate their homes and to turn the slum areas of this city into livable places of beauty.

The problem with this government is that it has no sense of this. It does not understand its people, and certainly it does not understand the multicultural reality of this city when it taxes the people who are reclaiming a slum. These people should receive concessions, not higher taxes.

Further, the Liberal Party says any increase in assessment due to renovations be proportionate to the existing assessment on the house and not be used as a means to sneak in market value assessment. The assessment should only increase by a fraction equal to the cost of renovation over the value of the home at the time of renovation.

The Minister of Revenue has laid a very heavy hand on some 9,000 city residents by moving them to a market value based assessment in order to pressure Toronto city council. We call on the minister to stop bullying Toronto home owners. We recommend, very strongly, that he call off the influx of extra assessors and give the mayor and city council a chance to present their plan for fair reassessment.

I would like to be there tonight to see what happens when city council deliberates on the kind of tax program it wants; to see how many government members of the Ontario parliament are present, and how many representatives of the Ministry of Revenue. From what I see across the floor right now, indications are that there will not be too many wanting to find out about something that is hurting the people of this province.

However, we question whether the latest property tax hikes are legal and will stand up in a court of law. The blitz of tax increases levied on these Toronto residents may be open to legal challenge, and I will tell this House why.

First, the Assessment Act, subsection 63(1), requires the assessor to alter the assessment to the extent necessary to make the assessment equitable compared to that of other properties in the vicinity. I question whether the 1982 assessments levied on renovated homes are equitable compared to the vast majority of nearby homes that were not reassessed. The minister's action here was clearly discriminatory.

5:20 p.m.

Point two, subsection 63(2) of the act requires reassessment where the value of an improvement is at least \$2,500. The mayor's office is aware of cases where the minister imposed higher assessment and the improvement was less than \$2,500, clearly forbidden under the statute.

Point three, in law it is forbidden to do indirectly what you are prohibited from doing directly. Subsection 63(3) of the act permits the minister to institute market value assessment but on the request of the municipal council, and we know that Toronto city council has not requested market value assessment. The minister's campaign is aimed at forcing the city to opt for market value assessment now. His staff based the new assessments on market value. The minister, in short, according to this section, is trying to do indirectly what he cannot do directly.

Point four, the actual assessments were done so sloppily it is possible that a court would find the minister and his staff failed to carry out properly their responsibilities under the act. In this case, the court could void the assessments. Faced with such a legal challenge that could be mounted any time, the minister would be well advised to revoke the assessments and stop terrorizing Toronto home owners.

I would now discuss briefly some of the

problems that are specific to my own riding, the Parkdale riding in the west end of the city of Toronto.

Let us look very briefly at what has happened to the outstanding and oldest problem that has plagued our neighbourhood, not only plagued our neighbourhood but at the same time makes people suffer a great deal. Let us look at what the former Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell) has done in terms of former mental patients and in terms of the provisions he instituted to deal with the Queen Street Mental Health Centre.

What has taken place there shows to the whole world that this institution was unable to provide the kinds of services not only in terms of its own staff but the services to the people who go there, totally unable to perform those tasks that are necessary to rehabilitate. I did speak on this issue on a number of occasions and I have attacked the minister quite strenuously and I have asked him, pleaded with him, tried to force him, arm wrestle with him in whatever way, shape or form I could, to indicate to him that people coming out of that institution are still part of his responsibility; and I must be fair, he has not discharged that responsibility that was given to him as a minister of the crown.

The people are still suffering from the same problem. Parkdale area is still suffering from the same inequities that take place in that institution. We see case after case documented in our daily newspapers—the *Globe and Mail*, the *Star* and the *Sun*. Day after day the problems that are not only associated with this institution but of the problems in the Ministry of Health, especially related to after-care services.

We have been given promises that increased moneys would be made available to help those downtrodden and unfortunate people who need social help, and yet much has still to be done and the promises made by the former minister have not held true. If he or anyone in this chamber should question what I am saying at this point, I will invite him to come with me to examine the problem at first hand in some of the boarding and lodging houses in my area. We must act forcefully and quickly to try to decentralize our group homes and our boarding and lodging houses. We must try to help those people who are greatly in need.

I have talked about this at length. The new Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) who has just taken over his responsibility owes it to the citizens and taxpayers of this province to go to my area in Parkdale, examine it at first hand and speak to some of the people who are suffering

under his ministry's policy. People are suffering because of the lack of either responsibility or of financing. I hope in future the new Minister of Health will take his responsibility seriously and try to help where help is really needed in Toronto, especially in the Parkdale area.

I would like to address myself to another problem in my riding. I address myself now to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Norton). The minister knows full well what happens in one specific situation in one specific area called the Junction Triangle area of Parkdale. He knows the problems associated with air pollution and industrial pollution in that area. He is either not strong enough or not swift enough to understand what is taking place there.

We have phone calls coming to my office on a daily basis. People complain that air pollution and other types of pollution are so strong that sometimes their health and that of their children is affected. We know the statistics. They are clear and open for anyone to examine. The statistics are clear that schools in that specific area have more absentee students than any other area in Toronto. I think the reason is simple. It is because of the pollution caused by some industries.

The minister has indicated he will do whatever he can to try to clear up those areas and clean up those industries that are great offenders. I am speaking specifically about Anchor Cap and Closure Corp. I wonder why the minister was not able to push through the policies necessary to clean up that company's act. I will not indicate here at this specific juncture why I feel he has not been able to do that. He would know that for reasons best described by himself. In future, I will certainly ask him why he is so incapable of cleaning up this specific area of Toronto. I think we will get the answer one of these days.

Finally, I would also like to read into the record, for anyone who doubted my words earlier about tax assessments in Toronto, a list of people who are suffering greatly from increased assessments. I would like to read the names into the record and give specific addresses of the people who came to a meeting I called, which was specifically addressed to tax reassessment:

Mr. Gatschner, 368 Sorauren Avenue; Mrs. Trznadle, 86 Emerson Avenue; Mr. Manserre, 408 Lansdowne Avenue; Mr. George Boskovic, 184 Caledonia Road; Mr. Agostiarko Bosa, 164 Brock Avenue; Mr. Kostauowicz, 434 Brock Avenue; Uho Perri, 45 McRoberts Avenue; Mrs. Mirza, of 649 Brock Avenue; Gobin Dass,

of 635 Brock Avenue; Giuseppe Kraschek, of 120 Brock Avenue; Feliks Kaprro, of 68 Brock Avenue; Pasquale Mnrasio, of 386 Perth Avenue; Antonio Aprea, of 136 Caledonia Road; Tony Frazazao, of 756 Gladstone Avenue; Paola Suppa, of 694 Lansdowne Avenue; Pietro Buttera, of 696 Lansdowne Avenue; Mr. J. Luis, of 4 Wright Avenue; Patur Letu, of 36 Golden Avenue; Vincent Campbell, of 22 Rutland Street; Mrs. Sruder, of 539 Perth Avenue and, finally, Mrs. Talin Smith of 1238 Lansdowne Avenue.

As I said before, these people are very drastically affected under the new provisions.

5:30 p.m.

Finally, I would simply like to say that what I have indicated about the vision of our new leader certainly reflects the vision of all of us in the Liberal Party. That vision is very clear and we in this party will go forth with a very strong and clarion voice to show and, in whatever way possible, provide this vision for the people of Ontario.

A strong economy, that is our first priority; and a caring and compassionate society. Those are the things we in the Liberal Party will try to provide in 1985. I am convinced that by that point all the people of Ontario will see with us the same vision which this government is unable to provide. They will all agree that we in the Liberal Party will provide this vision, and that is why I am confident we will be the government of Ontario in 1985.

Thank you very much.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I welcome an opportunity to participate in this debate on the speech from the throne. I know it will bring joy to the hearts of all those neglected and overlooked farm back-benchers on the government side that I am going to spend all my time talking about agriculture and food.

Mr. Nixon: What about making a place for Bob Rae? Aren't you going to discuss that at all?

Mr. MacDonald: That has nothing to do with agriculture and food.

For 25 years I have suffered the twitting of members on that side of the House with regard to my nonfarm associations. Any time I raised an issue that was getting close to the bone, so to speak, the distraction would start. The last Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Hender-

son) was a past master at it: "That is the asphalt farmer," and "Let's pay no attention to him." In fact, it went right up to the Premier. (Mr. Davis)

I have been wanting to get this on the record. Back in the last—

Mr. Ruston: Where is the new Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) from?

Mr. MacDonald: You will have a chance to speak later. Just calm down.

In the last election campaign the Premier apparently felt there was a little difficulty in the riding of the member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton), so he went in and they had a meeting in Lambeth. According to the *Hamilton Spectator* it was reported thus: "Mr. Davis also took a swipe at the NDP, saying their agriculture critic, Donald MacDonald, represented a rural riding in Toronto (York South). Mr. Davis questioned whether Mr. MacDonald had ever visited a farm."

It is quite possible that when he said that he smiled. The problem is that smiles do not get recorded in the paper, and I take it at face value and it is typical of the cheap shots that have been made for 25 years. However, I welcome what has happened.

I want to tell the honourable members why. I am willing to let bygones be bygones, because apparently—

Interjections.

Mr. MacDonald: Do not provoke me because maybe I will not let bygones be bygones.

Apparently members on the government side of the House are slow learners, but after 25 years they learned it is just possible that somebody who does not happen to be on the farm knows something and can do something about agriculture. They have gradually realized that you do not need to be a hen to know how to lay an egg.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. MacDonald: Look, you Communist member of the Liberal Party, sit down and be quiet now.

I thought one of the most delightful quotes on the unexpected appointment of the new Minister of Agriculture and Food was in the *Hamilton Spectator* from none other than that stalwart farmer, Ross Barrie, the president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. What did he say? "It was a real surprise when I heard it. I sat bolt upright in bed." He was startled.

The Acting Speaker: For what purpose do you stand?

Mr. Ruprecht: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I would indicate to the honourable member that he should withdraw the remark that I was a Communist member.

Mr. MacDonald: Did the honourable member feel hurt about that?

Mr. Nixon: Donald, you were on the receiving end of that one often enough.

Mr. MacDonald: Was the honourable member—

The Acting Speaker: The member for Parkdale can sit down, and the member for York South will withdraw the reference.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I am willing to withdraw it, but I will put it in the context in which it was done, and apparently they cannot take a joke. A definition of Liberal philosophy as was put on the record a little bit earlier maybe they think now is a joke. Namely, for a Liberal the objective is to develop the country and if you need to be a Socialist, you are a socialist; if you need to be a right winger, you are a right winger; if you need to be a Communist, you be a Communist. That is a quote from a Liberal, and I was putting the member in that category. If it is offensive, I withdraw it. Liberals do not like some of the things that other people in the Liberal Party say.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member will carry on with the response to the speech from the throne.

Mr. MacDonald: The Ontario Federation of Agriculture president sat bolt upright in bed when suddenly he discovered that an asphalt farmer from Don Mills had become Minister of Agriculture and Food. At least we would have to forgive him for being startled. It was an unprecedented move. I have not gone back to search the history books, and I do not know whether it is accurate that it is the first time a nonfarmer has ever been appointed Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Mr. Nixon: I believe it is.

Mr. Macdonald: The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk confirms it. He believes it is. It is the first time so it is unprecedented, and one has to pause for a moment to consider the motive. Why did this happen?

It happened, we are told, partially because the minister concerned sought the post. He sought the post partly because he believes that agriculture is a vital industry to this province. Nobody is going to disagree with that. I am glad that somebody in the cabinet who allegedly has

some clout has finally realized that agriculture is vital, and the government has to do something more.

However, there is a second reason. The second reason, it is speculated—and I do not know whether it is true or not—that his objective is to broaden his own power base beyond Metropolitan Toronto in anticipation of the party leadership race when the Premier leaves.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The honourable members are interjecting too much. The member for York South has the floor.

Mr. MacDonald: It is the first time that your very forceful interjections have been in defence of me, Mr. Speaker, and I welcome it.

I am sure you know, if the interjectors do not, that in agriculture cross-breeding is an object of rather continuous experimentation.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. Watson: Hybrid.

Mr. MacDonald: Right, hybrid, if you will. Apparently, if one crosses a Minister of Health with a Minister of Agriculture and Food in the cabinet of the Premier the result is expected to be a stronger Tory leadership candidate. But time alone will tell.

Mr. Watson: That's your opinion.

Mr. MacDonald: My opinion? I suspect it is the opinion of the Minister of Agriculture and Food too, so that makes at least two of us.

Let me be serious. Let me state without equivocation that I welcome the appointment of the new Minister of Agriculture and Food. It has long been my conviction that because farmers are now reduced to something like four or five per cent of the population in Ontario, if they do not win political allies in urban Ontario they are never going to get a fair shake from this government. In fact, to be totally fair, they would never get a fair shake from most governments, because most governments react to pressure. If the pressure from the 95 per cent who are not farmers is either an apathetic one or an opposition one, agriculture is always going to get the short end of the stick.

So I welcome any effort to bridge the gap that Tories have played on, pitting city against farm, trade unionist against farmer. Perhaps, as another of the headlines says, "Timbrell hopes to bridge the urban-rural differences." That would be interesting, to see a Minister of Agriculture and Food bridge the rural differences. This is in place of our former Minister of Agriculture and

Food who went around saying, "Farmers need more and consumers just must pay it." He ignored all the factors that might mean farmers could get more without the consumers having to pay as much more as he implied. I welcome this kind of a change.

Ideally, a minister of agriculture or a deputy minister of agriculture should be a person who knows the nitty-gritty, the detail, of agriculture, and at the same time has clout within the establishment of the government, in the civil service and in the cabinet. On the other hand, if we have not been able to succeed with people who know the nitty-gritty of agriculture, perhaps we will succeed better by having somebody who has clout in the cabinet. I agree that Dunc Allan as deputy minister and the new Minister of Agriculture and Food are likely to have far more clout in the cabinet, and it may well be that will be in the interest of agriculture.

I will be very frank: I am fascinated by the operations of Dunc Allan, absolutely fascinated. I read my clippings with zeal these days. He was out in Walkerton a week or so ago; I think he is going to run for office; he may even run in Lakeshore, so watch out. He is out looking for votes, and he is looking for the feminine vote. Let me read what he said up in Walkerton: "Ontario farmers would have not nearly so many problems if they left most of their bookkeeping and business decisions to their wives," Ontario Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food said. "I want to make it clear," said he,—"pointing at the men in the audience, no doubt—"whether a man winds up with a nest egg or a goose egg depends on the chick he married."

Some people might even say that is sexist. I am not sure, but I think it has a real—

Mr. Kerr: That's an old one.

Mr. MacDonald: Is it an old one? It is a reworked one. I had not heard it before. That is why one lives on, because one picks up on these things that one missed along the way in days gone by.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food, as I stated—and I think it was implied by many other people when we were discussing the estimates last fall—has been drifting for nigh on 10 years. It had started to drift, as one looks back with all the wisdom of hindsight, even under the latter years of Bill Stewart. It certainly was drifting under his two successors.

There are a lot of good people in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. When I think of that ministry, it reminds me of the Maple Leafs.

There are a lot of people of talent in there, but there is just something wrong. They are not getting the best end product possible. I think it is an open secret that Duncan Allan was put in there to knock some heads together, to make some changes, to streamline, to reorganize. If he can put that ministry on a more rational, effective basis, I wish him well.

From the outset I did not join the bandwagon that tended to be created by my friends in the Liberal Party of browbeating him in a parochial way because he did not happen to be a farmer. At least he knows how government works around Queen's Park. That, I repeat, may be more effective in terms of serving the interests of the farmers at the present time.

Now we have a Minister of Agriculture and Food who is in the same category. With the two of them, the Dennis Timbrell-Duncan Allan team, there certainly will be more clout on behalf of this vital and basic industry than we have had around Queen's Park for many a year. My hopes and the hopes of the farmers might soar because of that prospect. But it matters not who is the Minister of Agriculture and Food if the government is not willing to formulate and finance new and better programs for the industry.

Traditionally, Ministers of Agriculture and Food have always been odd men out in business-dominated governments. And that is what they are, business-dominated governments both in Ottawa and here at Queen's Park. These ministers often fight lone battles and lose many of them. All one has to do is watch Eugene Whelan. He spends half his time fighting against fellow cabinet ministers trying to get justice for the agricultural industry. Whether or not the team of Timbrell and Allan is going to win the battle on behalf of agriculture remains to be seen.

The reason I rise in this throne speech debate is that I think this House and this government should be alerted to the fact that what was produced in the throne speech is not enough. It is regurgitated rhetoric and there is not enough new substance to be able to meet the needs of agriculture.

Just let me deal with five or six of the points. First it declared the guidelines for the eligibility of farmers for help under the farm adjustment assistance program were going to be broadened. Little wonder they are going to be broadened. I got the figures this morning. Do members know how many farmers have been helped by this farm adjustment assistance program? At the

end of the first week of March, 46 farmers in the province. Do members know to what extent they had been helped? By \$300,000.

We got that great Christmas spreading of the wings when the whole government became Santa Claus; \$60 million was finally going to be made available to meet the interests of the vital industry of agriculture. Yet here we are, three months later, and 46 farmers have been able to get help in the measly sum of one third of \$1 million. Little wonder the eligibility guidelines have to be broadened.

I made a comment the other day and the Minister of Agriculture and Food said, "I had not heard that yet." My comment was, the only people I am aware of who have done a detailed analysis of the number of people who could be helped and the payout that could flow from the original guidelines of that assistance program are the people in the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. My information is that they will have difficulty reaching \$30 million. In other words, it is another delusion. The government offers a program with a great price tag to it, \$60 million, and, as it was originally presented to the people, there would not be a payout of more than \$30 million.

It will be interesting to watch whether, with the broadened guidelines, the \$30 million goes to \$35 million or \$40 million or \$45 million. It is not wise to stick your neck out in politics, but I am going to do it. I venture a prediction that when the end of this year comes and this program concludes, the \$60 million will not have been paid out. In other words it was a good propaganda gimmick.

5:50 p.m.

I do this knowing in one sense what a silly thing it is because they will come back and taunt me, but I am going to taunt them: get those guidelines broadened so the farmers will at least get the assistance the minister promised them.

Mr. Treleaven: We are flexible and responsible.

Mr. MacDonald: They are flexible all right; they are as flexible as a wet noodle.

Let me give an example. I got permission at noon today to put this on the record so the members can check it. Here are a couple of farmers, husband and wife, by the name of John and Barb Hill who live at Rockwood outside of Guelph. They wrote a letter to Bob Rae because Bob saw them when they were on the bus going

up to that great Hanover meeting where, as the Globe and Mail said, "Rae a hit in small-town Ontario."

Mr. Nixon: Are you going to help him by giving him a seat?

Mr. MacDonald: Never mind that. Do not worry about that. When Bob Rae gets in here you will be running for cover even more than you are at the present time.

Mr. Nixon: He is not even here to hear you speak.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Assuming he gets in here; have you got a riding?

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for York South has the floor.

Mr. MacDonald: Let me quote a portion from this letter, "After putting all our figures in order, our accountant"— incidentally this was an accountant appointed by the bank. They went to the bank and the bank was refusing to give them the small business bonds. I understand the bank can say, "No small business bonds," and there is no appeal. That is final. But on the farm assistance program, the bank does not have a final say. It can be appealed to Dick Hurd, who I think heads the appeal board here at Queen's Park. The accountant who was appointed by the bank sat down with the farmers and they worked it out.

"After putting all our figures in order, our accountant informed us that we had all the necessary qualifications to apply for help. On presenting this information to the bank we were told the bank does not want to go along with the financing of the complete operation. Their word is that if we agree to sell off more of our assets they may consider financing us in a small operation."

Let me pause there. They had to sell off the hogs because the bank had appointed a trustee. They had a loan of about \$175,000, which with interest accumulation has now gotten close to \$300,000. The bank appointed a trustee. The bank insisted that they sell off the hogs. Now the bank is insisting they sell off a good proportion of the cattle they have. What the devil are they going to have left to run a farm with? What is the purpose of this whole exercise; to maintain a viable farm or to destroy yet another family farm?

Let me pick it up: "We really do not feel," said John and Barb Hill, "that the country needs hobby farmers with off-farm jobs to subsidize their incomes. We do not think the bank should be controlling the supply of agricultural products

by their lending tactics." Finally, they end their letter saying: "It has been suggested to us that not too many farmers applying for government assistance are actually being helped. How can we obtain the actual figures of the successful applicants?"

I repeat, after 10 weeks since the program was announced, 46 farmers among the 87,000 or thereabouts farmers in Ontario have been helped by the munificence of the government over there. Who are they trying to kid? This is in the throne speech. Rhetoric, with a bit more substance because the eligibility rules are going to be broadened. We will wait and see how much substance there is. There may be no more substance in the broadened rules than there was in the original document.

Mr. Treleaven: How many are on stream?

Mr. McClellan: You tell us.

The Acting Speaker: Order, the member has the floor. I may remind the member it is approaching the hour of six and he may look for an appropriate moment.

Mr. MacDonald: Six o'clock comes early today; I will call now an appropriate moment because I have not finished and we come back at eight o'clock.

The Acting Speaker: Proceed. You have five minutes but I was giving you the—

Mr. McClellan: He says 80 are on stream.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, did somebody interject and say there are 80 on stream?

Mr. Treleaven: There are 80 on stream in the county of Oxford.

Mr. MacDonald: In Oxford alone?

Interjections.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, let me comment on these interjections because this is really pretty basic. Let me remind the people over there that when they were looking for votes before the last election they allocated \$25 million as an interest subsidy because they finally conceded just how serious was the burden of the high interest rates on farmers. Only 10 days after the election was over—and the government got the votes; more than they deserved—they cancelled the program although only \$5 million of the \$25 million had been spent. I will come to this in a moment, but I want to make the point here because it documents the case.

The government passed a program of financial assistance in 1975 to help young farmers get

established. That also had a \$25 million tag on it. I do not know what the latest payout is but I think it was \$8 million last fall. So, in six or seven years, the government has assisted junior farmers by paying some \$8 million out of the \$25 million fund.

At least it did not have the gall to wipe that program out—theoretically it is still there—but it has regurgitated it; and God knows what is going to come up in the regurgitation. Regurgitations are not pretty or nice, they are usually smelly; and this is as smelly as the usual regurgitation in the throne speech. I will document this at eight o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

On motion by Mr. MacDonald, the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I wish to indicate the business of the House for tomorrow and the week of March 29. Tomorrow, we will be continuing the debate on the throne speech. On Monday, March 29, supplementary estimates will commence, beginning with the Ministries of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Attorney General, Colleges and Universities, Government Services, Northern Affairs and Treasury and Economics.

On Tuesday, March 30, we will continue supplementary estimates as above, and then go on to the supplementary estimates of the Ministries of Health, Environment, Natural Resources, Transportation and Communications and Community and Social Services.

On Wednesday, March 31, three committees may sit in the morning. They are the standing committees on general government, resources development and the administration of justice.

On Thursday, April 1, we will continue with supplementaries, if necessary, otherwise we will resume debate on the throne speech. On Friday, April 2, we will continue with the throne speech debate.

I remind the House that the resources development committee will organize Tuesday night, March 30, and then immediately begin its consideration, as authorized earlier today, of the 1980 report of the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I hope the House will join me in wishing a very happy birthday to the member for York North (Mr. Hodgson), who is celebrating his 70th birthday today.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Ontario, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 9

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Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Thursday, March 18, 1982

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Thursday, March 18, 1982

The House resumed at 8:02 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I will not be much longer, but I would like to tidy things up. We were into a fairly freewheeling effort before supper. Maybe the members have lost the thread of what I was attempting to say and I want to make certain I re-establish that thread. The thread was simply that while there is a measure of promise in the new team in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, unfortunately the throne speech does not give much confidence that it is yet winning the battle.

I cited, for example, the farm adjustment assistance program announced just before Christmas—it is no less than three months old—for which a price tag of \$60 million had been attached. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture pointed out that with the original guidelines no more than \$30 million would be ultimately paid out. The government itself concedes in the throne speech that the program was inadequate and now announces that the guidelines are going to be broadened somewhat.

Just let me conclude that point, Mr. Speaker, with what I think is a pretty devastating set of figures. Would you believe that in 1980 the net farm income in Ontario was \$536 million? That is the net, what the farmers had left for themselves after they had paid all their expenses. In that same year the farming community paid \$436 million in interest payments. In other words, the interest payments were 80 per cent of the net income the farmers earned through all their work.

Last year, 1981, net income had jumped to \$843 million. As you are undoubtedly aware, Mr. Speaker, these figures at the end of the year are projections and are subject to confirmation at a later date. I must confess I find it a little bit surprising that the net income went up from \$536 million to \$843 million, but it is likely a

relatively accurate ball-park figure. However, the point I want to draw to your attention is that the interest payments the farmers paid in 1981 had gone up from \$436 million to \$621 million. So, once again, the proportion is roughly the same. The interest payments the farmers are making are about 80 per cent of their net income.

That is a situation that clearly reflects a much broader crisis in the agricultural community than the results that are slowly dribbling out of that pipeline in which somebody said there were a lot of applications, because up until the end of the first week in March no more than 46 farmers had received any payment at all. Indeed, the total payment was a mere \$300,000 of the \$60 million that had been dangled before them last Christmas.

The second item I want to draw attention to is one that got fed into the debate as a result of an interjection from one of the government backbenchers; namely, the fact that the speech from the throne promised a program of capital assistance to young farmers to help them get established. Again, that is a very commendable proposition. But I would remind the House that in 1975 such a program was established with a \$25-million price tag attached to it. No more than one third of that has been paid out. So there was another ineffective program. We look forward with a measure of anticipation as to whether the new version, whatever it may be when it is finally detailed, will be any more effective than the last one we had.

The third item in the throne speech is legislation to protect producers from buyers in default. Periodically when the buyers of farm produce have gone bankrupt, farmers have found that they are empty-handed. First claims on the bankrupt company go to the preferred creditors, including the banks and, indeed, federal and provincial governments for any money that may be owed to those governments, and not to farmers. This is something we have talked about in this Legislature for three or four years in an intense way, since the bankruptcy of that meat packing plant or abattoir or something in Guelph and in the Hamilton area, if I recall correctly. So, once again, we look forward with pleasure

or anticipation as to what is going to happen. But so far it is nothing but a regurgitation, a retread of an old policy and an old issue.

Fourth, the throne speech promised efforts to reduce dependencies on imports and the encouragement of sales of Ontario farm produce through further boosting of Foodland Ontario. Again, this is an admission that the current programs are not adequate. In fact, as far back as 10 years ago, Bill Stewart, the then Minister of Agriculture and Food, was warning that if the trends continued, by the end of the century we would be importing 60 per cent of our food-stuffs.

Ontario has now become a net food importer. We are importing more food than we are exporting despite our very great capacity for production of food in this province. The trend has not been reversed, let alone achieving the objective that the farm organizations have been proclaiming for quite some years now, namely, that Ontario should become self-sufficient in food.

Nobody is arguing that we have to become self-sufficient for certain tropical foods, fruits and things of that nature. But there are literally hundreds of millions of dollars of produce that we are importing more and more, for a variety of reasons, which could be produced in this province. We are not reversing that trend. I look forward to seeing whether the new team is going to do anything more effectively than we have done in the last four or five years.

Finally, the throne speech speaks of promoting a stabilization program for national commodities to provide improved income security for farmers. This is the oldest and weariest of verbal buck-passing between Queen's Park and Ottawa. Federal stabilization is tied basically to 90 per cent of the average of the past five years. We all know that these historic price levels are wholly unrealistic in the light of the current price levels that farmers have to face. So the federal program is inadequate to begin with. Gene Whelan has announced—he announced it last year and I presume it still stands—that last year was the last year in which they were going to permit provinces to top-load the inadequate federal stabilization program with the kind of extra five per cent that Ontario was adding to it in any payout.

8:10 p.m.

Members will recall that last year there was quite a confrontation, which went on for some weeks, when Ottawa was declaring it was going to deduct from its payments the five per cent

Ontario gave. They backed off that because they were not doing it in Quebec, but I would remind the House that the federal Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Eugene Whelan, said in future years they were not going to tolerate or permit that kind of top loading.

In addition, the federal government has often refused to name as national products many Ontario products that are desperately in need of stabilization. Because they do not happen to be as important in other provinces outside Ontario, there is a great resistance on the part of the federal government to name them as national products, so they do not get the basic 90 per cent. Then the five per cent top-loading Ontario offers becomes ridiculous.

The much-needed stabilization in farm income levels, and I emphasize this, is so much rhetoric, more rhetoric than substance. If the Conservative government and the new team in Agriculture and Food have a more adequate program in mind for this, as for all these other items, it will be interesting to see what it is. Once again, farmers have been waiting for years and they have been short-changed. They have been let down by both the Liberals in Ottawa and the Tories at Queen's Park.

I could go on at considerably greater length in spelling out positively what the New Democratic Party's policies are in response to, or as an alternative to, the inadequacies of what the throne speech offers, but I will let the matter rest there tonight. There will be plenty of opportunities in estimates and elsewhere.

Indeed, we are taking the story out to the hustings. When we have meetings in Hanover, 1,000 people turn up and the press release says, "Rae a hit in small-town Ontario." That is the kind of message we are carrying, a positive alternative to the inadequacies on the other side of the House. It may be more important to take it out there than to waste our words here because they obviously have not been very effective here.

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, I notice there are some young people in the gallery. You are probably wondering why I am changing glasses. I can tell you it is due to age. That happened to the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) a long time ago, did it not?

Mr. MacDonald: You change glasses as easily as you change parties.

Mr. Gordon: It happened to the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) too. I noticed he was doing the same thing.

Mr. Boudria: You used to change parties; now you change glasses.

Mr. Gordon: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if you would do something about these people who are interrupting me.

Mr. McClellan: You are only interrupting yourself.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Gordon: I would like to begin this evening by saying that I certainly welcome this opportunity to participate in the throne speech debate and to express my views on a topic of great consequence to the present and future prosperity of all Canadians. First, I would like to remind the members on the other side, if I may be so bold, that this government has a proven record of job creation and of caring for its citizens.

Mr. Mackenzie: How many goat herders in Sudbury?

Interjections.

Mr. Gordon: If I might have the floor for a moment, I would like to tell these gentlemen about my glasses. One of the nice things about them is they help me to read my speech, but I cannot see much further than that row down there.

Mr. MacDonald: You are not the first Tory who has been short-sighted.

Mr. Gordon: Once I put them on, it does not matter what those members do. This evening I would like to address the positive steps taken by this government to create jobs in Ontario and in Canada. Our government, through the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, has launched an aggressive policy to deal with our economic shortcomings, job creation and the temporary setbacks in our manufacturing sector.

BILD is a bold initiative which was created to build a strong foundation for the future and for prosperity in Ontario, and it is a bold initiative which will progress because of the strengths of the people, the resources and our strong manufacturing base in Ontario. The cornerstone of BILD is technology and people. To ensure economic growth and international competitiveness, our government, through BILD, is promoting R and D, encouraging high technology and expanding markets for Ontario products.

The era we live in has ushered in another

industrial revolution and, make no mistake about it, it is a revolution based on microelectronics. The application of microelectronics is truly revolutionary. In manufacturing, microprocessors control and will improve the performance of a wide range of products from home appliances to heavy construction machinery and cars. Assembly lines can be automated by the use of robots fitted with microelectronic sensors that enable them to be used in a range of difficult tasks. The use of microelectronics at home, at work and at school will ultimately improve the quality of our lives.

At the same time, the National Research Council has estimated that if the existing 1,000 high-technology firms doubled their gross output by 1990, the net benefit to Canada's balance of payments would amount to \$12 billion and would create 650,000 jobs. As a matter of interest, 650,000 jobs are five times the present number of workers employed in the Canadian auto industry. Ontario is an industrialized province accounting for 49 per cent of the manufacturing in Canada. Therefore, the adoption and diffusion of microelectronic technology is both a necessity and an opportunity.

Canada's research and development effort is recognized as being inadequate. Ontario's performance is only slightly better. Recent studies show that Canadian industry is not only slow in the application and diffusion of technology, but lags behind most industrial nations in the utilization of technical innovations. In a world characterized by tariff reductions and strong industrial competitors, rapid advances in technology have become a prerequisite to the growth and survival of many domestic industries.

We cannot escape the realities of the technological revolution. Our competitors are spending significantly more money on R and D as a percentage of their gross domestic product. What is strongly needed for the growth and prosperity of Canadian industry is a coherent policy that links social and economic policies to a policy of technological advancement. The time is right for us to build on our strengths.

In the past decade Ottawa has failed to implement such a policy. As a result, Canada is now facing industrial setbacks. Our trade performance shows a deficit in manufactured goods and in high-technological items. This trade deficit in high-technology manufacturing has also been paralleled by the growing dominance of high-technology imports into the Canadian market. Even in mineral resources,

for which we are one of the world's principal sources of supply, we are net importers of the manufactured forms of these minerals. This general weakness of Canada's trade performance is also mirrored in our employment trend. For example, the poor technological performance of our industry has resulted in lower employment opportunities because of industrial inefficiency, low productivity and competitiveness.

8:20 p.m.

We are facing difficult times, and our government is the first to admit that we are encountering new challenges. We live in a period of rapid change. Events such as the OPEC crisis of 1973, coupled with new technological advancements, have serious implications for our society. Our Progressive Conservative government is not only prepared to deal with changing economic trends, but is laying the foundation for future growth and prosperity. There is no doubt that Canada's economic performance is in trouble, especially when viewed in the context of global change. The industrialized nations, particularly the US, Japan and western Europe, are concentrating on high-technology industries and shifting the location of their labour-intensive manufacturing activities to industrializing Third World countries such as Brazil, South Korea and Taiwan.

It is obvious that these countries are concentrating on industries that require extensive contributions to research and development efforts. I need not point out the negative implications of this global trend for Canadian industry if we do not concentrate our efforts on high-technology manufacturing. In order to remain competitive, we must also concentrate our efforts on research and development.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give you and my colleagues an example of the significant impact of technology on the structure of industry. Recent advances in the application of microprocessor technology to textile design procedures are allowing a number of Japanese clothing manufacturers to maintain production activities within Japan which, due to high labour requirements, would have had to be located in low-wage countries.

Applied to Canada, this microelectronics revolution could increase demand for skilled labour and allow Canada to customize production processes so that the cost of products with short production runs destined for our smaller domestic market would make economic sense. In addition, production cost could be reduced

to the extent that some mass-market consumer goods would be produced in Canada at prices competitive with low-wage economies. However, if Canada does not initiate policies to take advantage of the benefits of technology in the early and growth phases of the advanced technology product cycle the implications of the global industrial revolution can be quite detrimental to the Canadian economy.

If Canadian industries do not stimulate economic growth by improving their technological capacity, they will be unable to compete either in terms of labour costs or modern production facilities and thus be unable to maintain their domestic and export markets.

A good illustration of this point is our auto industry. For 1981, vehicle production was 807,000 units, the lowest since 1967. This reduced production level has forced major layoffs. Certainly the measures advocated by our government in the throne speech are necessary as a first step in aiding the auto industry. Volkswagen-type agreements must be pursued. Future negotiations with foreign manufacturers must guarantee 85 per cent Canadian content. In order for the auto industry to become competitive, both production and production processes must be innovative.

In general, Canadian manufacturing plants have been much slower in incorporating micro-electronic technology into their production lines. Our reluctance in adopting robotics in the manufacturing process is a case in point. The greatest obstacle to the adoption of microelectronics is the fear of massive unemployment. The truth, however, is that unemployment is not necessarily a result of technological changes. Far from destroying jobs, rapid technological advance has generally been accompanied by high rates of job creation.

The period following the Second World War saw the industrial economies flooded with new technologies, while the number of jobs increased steadily and unemployment shrank to exceptionally low levels. The Japanese recognized in the early 1970s that microelectronics would be a cornerstone of industrial progress in the coming decades. As a result, their steel, automobile and television assembly plants are among the most highly automated in the world, which is one reason they have captured such a large share of the world markets for these goods.

Despite Japan's extensive use of automation, their unemployment level in 1980 was only 2.1 per cent. In order for microelectronics to be accepted in our industries, there must be

understanding and co-operation between management and unions. A form of industrial democracy is necessary to establish trust and co-operation in initiatives to incorporate technological advancement. Our government is doing everything it possibly can to encourage healthy labour-management relations.

Skills training is another area where our government has taken the initiative to prepare our people to meet the changing needs of business and industry. Our universities, colleges and apprenticeship programs are providing the bulk of our trained graduates. The growth of our educational structure in the 1960s and 1970s has put Ontario among the leading industrial jurisdictions in the creation of a talented and highly educated work force.

We recognize that Ontario's future depends in large measure on its strongest asset, its human resources. To build upon this base, our government is investing some \$200 million over the next five years on long-term manpower initiatives which will focus on developing our own skills, retraining existing manpower to adapt to changing technology and achieving a closer link between our educational institutions and the needs of the work place.

In particular, the training in business and industry program, which last year was increased from \$3.5 million to \$8.5 million after BILD strategies were announced, has been granted a further \$5 million for 1982-83. I was also pleased to see that emphasis was placed in the throne speech on the introduction of a wage incentive program for the training of high-level software development specialists.

This government cares about people. We provide programs to deal with our changing environment. Our government recognizes the needs of our people. We realize that what is needed now is the adoption by Ottawa of a Canadian technology development strategy in order to improve our trade performance, increase the competitiveness of our industries and create jobs. Such a strategy must be based on our existing strengths and on sectors in which we enjoy an international competitive advantage.

8:30 p.m.

These strengths include, first, the development of natural resource extraction and processing technology to take advantage of Canada's wealth of minerals, forests and agricultural products. At the same time, we need to develop new technologies for the efficient manufacture of uniquely Canadian products from our resource

wealth. The time has come for us to shake off our image of hewers of wood and drawers of water.

Second, we need to develop technologies—

Mr. Breagh: Point of order, Mr. Speaker: I really feel that more members should be subjected to this kind of abuse and I am not sure there are enough of them here. Would you take a look around and see if we have a quorum for this auspicious occasion?

The Deputy Speaker: I report to the honourable member there is a quorum.

Mr. Wildman: We want to make sure they are all here to hear you.

Mr. Gordon: I appreciate that very much. I think that is really a sign of approval. We call that stroking, in the north. I don't know what they call it down here.

Interjection.

Mr. Gordon: I know it is not polite. You cannot use it in the Legislature.

Second, we need to develop technologies in which Canada clearly has a strong capability, such as electricity generation, nuclear energy, wind energy—and there is plenty of that on the other side—telecommunications, geophysical exploration and remote sensing.

Finally, we need to develop new technologies to capitalize on the spinoffs from the megaprojects Canada will be undertaking in the next decade. For example, the tar sands and pipeline developments will require new breakthroughs in machinery and tooling equipment technology. A rational, effective effort at developing and using microelectronics space technology in the development of products, processes and systems can lead to the creation of Canadian products that are innovative and internationally competitive.

BILD is the first step in the formulation of such a strategy. The essential component of the BILD program involves building on our strengths and creating the conditions necessary for enterprise, innovation and investment. Despite foreign penetration, Canadian industry has substantial strength in many high-technological sectors that have the capacity to expand in the 1980s.

Many small to medium-sized Canadian firms have demonstrated their innovative capability and have emerged as major players in the electronics industry. These companies include Northern Telecom, Mitel Corp., Gandalf Data Communications Ltd., Norpak Ltd., Epitek Electronics Ltd., and on and on. Our govern-

ment's goal is to ensure that these and other emerging Canadian industries grow and prosper. I want to emphasize here that it is our role, our responsibility, to encourage as well as assist our industries to be more successful.

I would like to discuss briefly some of the initiatives launched by this government to assist our industries in improving their productivity. BILD has allocated \$28 million over the next five years to establish a microelectronics technology centre in Ottawa. This is a major initiative, injecting sophisticated miniature electronic technology directly into the Ontario manufacturing process. The centre will build on the electronic strength of Ottawa's Silicon Valley. It will service our emerging microelectronics industry by assisting manufacturers to obtain the essential custom-made chips for new product innovation.

The centre's unique position in Ottawa will also enable it to foster co-operation between the federal and provincial governments to ensure maximum benefits to our industries.

Computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing and robotics centres have been proposed for Cambridge and Peterborough respectively, with combined funding estimated at \$40 million over the next five years. These centres will assist Ontario industry to adopt new technologies in advanced manufacturing and robotics. The North American automotive industry is currently undergoing rapid change as a result of modernization and shifts in demand.

To help the industry take advantage of the long-term opportunities in this sector, our government has proposed the establishment of a \$25-million auto parts technology centre in St. Catharines. This centre will provide production services, an information centre and training and education, as well as testing facilities for small to medium-sized auto parts manufacturers. I am convinced that this important centre will play a pivotal role in assisting our auto sector regain its competitive edge.

To capitalize on our resource wealth, to create jobs in Ontario and to reduce our imports of resource machinery, our government has allocated \$19 million for a resource machinery development centre to be located in Sudbury. We have a strong mining industry but a limited capability in mining equipment and technology. We have a strong pulp, paper and forest products industry, yet we have never maximized the potential to supply this industry with Canadian-made technology and equipment.

Indeed, import penetration in the resource

machinery sector is now about 75 per cent of the total Canadian market. In 1979, the national deficit on resource machinery equipment stood at over \$1.4 billion. Our government is determined to change this scenario for the people of Ontario, to ensure that jobs are created in Ontario, not in West Germany or the United States. The new centre will encourage mining and forestry research and development, which will increase Ontario-based manufacturing of resource machinery and equipment and provide a focal point for the development of projects to supply our growing equipment needs.

With the establishment of this new centre, a wide range of projects will be developed. For example, projects to share the risks with industry in making use of untried, experimental machinery; projects to replace existing imported machinery by new and superior machinery embodying new technology leading to productivity and operational cost improvements; and projects to develop working prototypes for equipment having substantial market potential in Ontario and in other major markets. The resource machinery development centre is also important in that it will provide a forum in Sudbury for the resource industry and its manufacturers to co-ordinate their efforts.

The centre will have access to funds for joint ventures with organizations on project proposals that can lead to new domestic machinery and equipment manufacturing. Our goal is to foster closer co-operation between manufacturers and resource companies. This co-operation will go a long way in ensuring the prosperity of both industries, thus providing jobs for the future. A good example of BILD funds and the private sector is the multi-million dollar mining machinery and equipment manufacturing plant that will be established in Sudbury. This plant, the first and only completely Canadian-owned manufacturing plant in Canada, will be a joint venture shared by the provincial and federal levels of government and three private groups, Inco, Noranda Mines Ltd. and John Clarke Investments.

The other centres that will be established in the province include the biotechnological centre in Mississauga and the food processing centre in Chatham. BILD funds will also assist the creation of the Ontario Institute for Biomass Research at Maple. These new centres will lay the foundation for future growth and prosperity in many sectors of our economy. Ontario intends to be in the forefront of this new age of

high technology and the establishment of these technology centres will help us achieve that goal.

8:40 p.m.

New high-technology enterprises tend to be high-risk ventures. A key requirement for their viability is access to funding over a sustained period of time. Our government is prepared to accept equity-risk positions in new high-technology enterprises in the expectation that these ventures, in time, will become commercially successful and self-financing.

Mr. Martel: Tell me who has been advocating it for 10 years?

Mr. Gordon: It did not take very long, did it, for the member for Sudbury East to start having some influence.

Through the Ontario Development Corp., BILD provides start-up funds for Canadian-owned high-technology companies that already have a viable business plan and a structured financing plan. BILD funding totalling \$1.7 million has been approved for nine such companies. Associated financing includes \$4 million in private funds and \$1.7 million from federal sources. Some 2,300 jobs are expected from these potentially high-growth companies during the next five years.

In the area of education, BILD is funding an educational microtechnology program. It will sustain initiatives already under way in the field of computer-assisted learning, as well as promoting the development of Ontario's educational microtechnology and computerized learning materials industry. BILD also supports the use of Canadian technology in two new major government projects—I am sure my colleague the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) will be interested in this one—the liquor control board's new warehouse—

Mr. Martel: Is that in Timmins?

Mr. Gordon:—in the Durham region, and the Ministry of Revenue's offices in Oshawa.

Special planning and purchasing procedures have been laid down by BILD to ensure both maximum and top-grade Canadian content of these projects. Ontario industries have made tremendous investments in communications technologies, broadcasting, satellites, digital switching, cable television and software production. Videotex, or what is better known as two-way TV, is a product of the marriage between the computer and telecommunications technologies.

The Canadian videotex system, Telidon, is

considered the most advanced such system in the world. Telidon, in fact, has beaten out its major international competitors to become the AT and T standard for videotex. Projections suggest that the Canadian market alone for videotex may reach \$750 million a year and that 400,000 sets a year could be sold in this country by 1985. Some American estimates indicate that by the end of the decade one quarter of all US homes will have videotex services and that an American market of \$75 billion will exist for residential telecommunication services.

In order to promote Telidon and maintain its lead in videotex technology, our government purchased 2,000 Telidon units, programmed them with tourist information, and is having them installed in public places throughout Metropolitan Toronto. This commitment by the Ontario government to promote Telidon will provide us with the opportunity to tap a larger North American market, creating thousands of new jobs in Canada.

Telidon is not the only Canadian success story. We developed the Candu reactor, one of the best nuclear systems in the world. The Atomic Energy Commission pioneered cobalt therapy for cancer patients, and there are now 1,400 cobalt therapy units in hospitals around the world. In aerospace, we developed the remote manipulator arm for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd. has developed the Dash-7 and Dash-8 aircraft, leaders in their field. The Urban Transportation Development Corp. has developed world-leading light rapid transit vehicles.

Clearly we have strength in this province that we can build upon. We have on numerous occasions demonstrated our ability to build on the strength of our people, and we will continue to build on their innovative capability in order to shape a better tomorrow.

Our government is also preparing Ontario for the transition to an economic system based increasingly on electric power and nuclear technology. By encouraging the substitution of electricity for oil, our provincial government is providing greater energy security for Ontario's economic future while keeping Ontario in the forefront of electric power technology. For example, the nuclear generation of electricity is a lower-cost alternative to generation by oil or coal. As a result, Ontario Hydro has been directed to accelerate the completion of the Darlington nuclear generating station.

Ontario Hydro's nuclear generating stations

that are under construction at Bruce, Pickering and Darlington will also provide thousands of construction jobs as well as ensure the wellbeing of many sophisticated supply industries. A specific objective of the nuclear generation program is to reduce Ontario's use of coal for power generation and thereby reduce acid gas emissions, which have serious environmental effects.

I am pleased that initiatives will be taken this year to advance the agricultural and industrial potential of the Bruce Energy Centre. Low-cost and secure steam energy from the Bruce nuclear generating station will be used to heat a greenhouse complex designed to replace imported products and expand Ontario's greenhouse industry. At the same time, the park can be used for industrial purposes. The Bruce Energy Centre should create about 3,000 jobs in the area during the next 10 years.

To prepare Ontario for the longer term, our government has also initiated programs to tap our renewable and essentially inexhaustible energy sources. A fuel of great promise is hydrogen. In 1981, our government established the Institute for Hydrogen and Electrochemical Systems as a focal point for advanced research and development in these new energy systems.

Ontario faces both considerable challenges and massive opportunities during the next decade. In order to ensure that we achieve continued economic growth and create new jobs, initiatives in technology must be encouraged. We need to capitalize on our strengths at every opportunity and the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development is a bold first step.

In conclusion, it is about time the federal government got on the bandwagon and implemented a coherent policy of technological advancement. The reality of the employment situation for the 1980s demands that all levels of government develop policies which relate more directly to the new, changing requirements of our technological era.

8:50 p.m.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct pleasure to stand here on this eve of the first anniversary of Ontario's most recent disaster and make these remarks. I do not have to remind the House of the reality of March 19, 1981.

By way of a few introductory comments, I would point out to the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) that he almost outdid a lady colleague of his, the member for St. David (Mrs. Scrivener), who last year spoke prior to me in

response to the throne speech. She had been heavily involved with a study on rail transportation and went on and on.

When I got up to speak, I observed that had my ancestor who was a railroad man taken the same time she did, he could have laid 100 miles of track in the length of time it took to make her speech. I observe tonight that I cannot say that of the member for Sudbury, but I point out that during the course of his speech the style of my clothing went out; it took that long.

At the outset, I have to say how proud I am to be associated with our party, to be able to represent the citizens of London North and to be working with our fine new leader, the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson). It has been pointed out by earlier speakers from our party, and I am sure it will be pointed out by those who follow me, that we have a renewed dedication not just to the process we see in the House on a day-to-day basis, but a dedication to the ongoing need to serve the needs of the people of Ontario.

Mr. Philip: It took a lot of corporations to engineer his election.

Mr. Van Horne: In spite of the observation made by one of my New Democratic friends, the member for Etobicoke, I would also pass on a favourable comment to the new leader of the New Democratic Party. We do not know when he will join us in the House but I am sure they, too, have a renewed vigour. I would like to pass on my congratulations to them.

My remarks this evening will be put to the House in three themes: First, to observe in general terms on the speech as it was presented to us a week ago; second, to observe on it as it is perceived by the people in my community of London; and third, to observe on it as I think it is perceived by people in northern Ontario, an area for which I now have responsibility as our party's critic for Northern Affairs.

Mr. Piché: You will have to learn where northern Ontario is first and I will give you some lessons. You have never been there.

Mr. Van Horne: The member for Cochrane North is observing that I have never been to the north and he knows not whereof he speaks. I have made many trips to the north, not just in the last few months but in the course of my stay in the Legislature, which has extended over five years.

Beyond that, I have some observations on the north from a book called *Youth Goes North*, a book that features me as a person who spent

some time in the Temagami area. The member for Sudbury realizes my sister lives in Sudbury. I have paid many visits to that part of the country. The member for Cochrane North is not aware of the various other activities I have been involved in north of Sault Ste. Marie, but he will find out as we go along how much I do know.

The thrust of the throne speech is very disconcerting to me because it did not address itself adequately to the basic concern of all Ontarians, the concern we should have for the very high level of unemployment in this province. That is why my leader moved the other day to have an emergency debate on that topic.

It was pointed out in the course of that debate that there have been 21,565 permanent or indefinite layoffs in Ontario in the last year. At Algoma Steel in Sault Ste. Marie, 500 people have lost their jobs; 850 jobs have been lost at Inco in Sudbury; 1,700 Canadian Admiral workers in Cambridge and Mississauga are out of work; and 500 workers at de Havilland in Toronto will be laid off next month. I could mention the mine in Pickle Lake that was brought to our attention in the Globe and Mail just two days ago. It too will be closing.

The response of this defeatist government to this situation has been to throw up its hands, to shrug off its economic responsibility and opt for laissez-faire conservatism and inaction. This government has lost touch with the average Ontarian. It clings to a naive faith in the invisible hand of the market.

When one looks at the throne speech and follows it from page to page, one would have to conclude that it was written by a schizophrenic. This government in one breath condemns the federal government for every ill that befalls this province and then in the next breath says, "But we must seek co-operation or aid from the federal government." They cannot have it both ways. They cannot fool the people forever by suggesting the fault is solely that of the federal government.

I will go through the throne speech a page at a time, note the highlights that appeared in the press the following day that have stuck in our minds, and comment on the points in general terms.

The first page suggests that the Conservative government in Ontario has urged the federal government to join them in a program of economic recovery. If they are doing that seriously, how can they, on a day-to-day basis, here and in the press, continue to hammer away at the federal government for all its "inadequacies"?

They continue with this theme on the second page: "In spite of this united opposition from Ontario and other provinces, the government of Canada remains firm in its position of current monetary policy." They go on to say that attempts by the federal Minister of Finance to transfer a larger share of federal responsibility for the costs of health and post-secondary schools and social services to the provinces has created problems for the provinces. I would submit there is no reference made there at all to the excellent job the federal government has done over the years in providing those funds not only to Ontario but to the other provinces.

As my colleague the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) has pointed out many times in this House, and as recently as a few nights ago when he spoke, the federal government gets no credit for this.

I have to wonder if Ontario is reflected in the words of Jean Chrétien, who said he could not be a Tory because he could not speak out of both sides of his mouth. That is what Ontario is doing when it asks for co-operation on one hand and on the other hand condemns it.

Let me go on a few pages to the point at which the throne speech brings to our attention that global funding for youth employment will be increased and greater emphasis given to creating job opportunities for out-of-school youth on a year-round basis. How long have we heard this theme of providing assistance for youth who are out of school? What are the specifics of the money going to be here? When we see the budget in another few weeks, when we look for funds, specific and in large quantity, I would wager we will not find them related to this program. What the government will likely do is redecorate a couple of old programs they have been booting around for some time and throw them out as something brand new, just as was done with the BILD program.

9 p.m.

To get into another area of sensitivity in this throne speech, we note on the fifth page that this government is going to increase the stock of rental housing, particularly in the area in and around Metropolitan Toronto. There is no reference there, of course, to the theme, or the thorn, if you will, of rent control and what that has done to the development of housing units not only in Toronto, but in other parts of the province. We have to admit that all parties have mixed emotions on this particular theme. Yet the government does not address itself to that,

but rather to throwing some money in to provide a Band-Aid to accommodate that problem.

We next go on to the first mention, not of northern Ontario specifically, but the forest industry. By the way, I would point out to my colleague the member for Cochrane North, who was poking a little fun at me a few moments ago, that the influence of the northern members from the government side of the House has to be considered as precious little, because when we look for other than this reference on page 6 in the throne speech, there is not another reference to northern Ontario until page 19. On that page we find three lines referring to the north.

Mr. Martel: That is better than last year. There was none then.

Mr. Van Horne: That is better than last year because there were none then. The priorities of northern Ontario are virtually non-existent for this government.

The reference we do see on page 6—and here again I would like to underline this theme of duplicity, of speaking out of both sides of the mouth—states, “The recently announced forest improvement project will be expanded.” Is that the one we find mentioned in the *Globe and Mail* about three weeks ago, “Forest Industry Job Plan Unveiled: A Joint Federal-Provincial Program”? There is no mention of that in the throne speech, and I have to suspect duplicity from the bit of research my assistant and I have done.

By the way, I would like to get her name into the record because we are blessed with some excellent people in this building. The researchers and the interns who work with us are very good people. I have the pleasure of having a young lady from Zurich, Ontario, Elizabeth Deichert, working with me as an intern now. She is here in the gallery. She has been helpful to me, as have other interns to other members, in trying to get to the bottom of some of these government programs or announcements. In this instance, when the provincial government says it is going to expand on this program and makes no reference whatsoever to what the federal government is also doing, I call that duplicity. Within a breath or two we find this throne speech again attacking the federal government. I tell them they cannot have it both ways.

Let me go on to another little theme that appears on the sixth page, “Special employment initiatives will be adopted by the Ministry of Natural Resources to upgrade and accelerate

construction of resource access roads.” It goes on to talk briefly about another program with federal authorities that will be encouraging the consideration of new programs by which funds normally paid as unemployment insurance can be directed and supplemented to provide employment in other areas of worthwhile endeavour.

I submit that is not a new program. For the record, if anyone chooses to examine the news broadcast of CFPL radio from London, Ontario, yesterday evening, they will find recorded there the statement of a civil servant, a gentleman I know because he and I both served on our public utilities commission at one point. I am referring to Larry Glass’ comment about a program such as this, which has been in existence for the last three years. This is new? This is a new deal in the throne speech? This is a smoke and mirrors exercise.

I am going on now to another theme that has been a great concern to our party, the theme of agriculture. We find on page seven that the government is saying it is going to bring forth a package of additional measures to further assist agriculture. Here we are, heading into the third week in March. We know full well that all kinds of farmers are hanging on by the skin of their teeth. They may still have their property, they may still have some of their equipment, they may still have some of their livestock, but a lot of them are hurting.

We heard this afternoon in one of the presentations in this House the number of applications made for the assistance program. It is a very low number. As my colleague the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) pointed out, the time for buying the seed, for buying the insecticides, for buying the fertilizers and for getting those pieces of equipment ready to do the field work, etc., within the next few weeks is here now. If these people are having a tough time, if they have not got the money, the seed will not be in the field and the crops will not be there to be harvested. Ontario’s agricultural community is hurting. I had hoped, given the amount of exercise we heard and felt in this House last fall, the government would be quicker to move and more generous when it did move. I do not think what we find in the throne speech is adequate.

The same reference is made again on page 8. I will not get into that any more. The next theme in the throne speech is the BILD program. We all know that it is basically a repackaging of old programs that the government had varying

degrees of success with over the years and now they are saying to us it is the cornerstone of their approach to improving the economic situation here in Ontario.

That in itself is not enough. If we could have another general phrase for the government's ills it would be, "Plan ahead, master plan, blueprint." What is the master plan or blueprint for Ontario? If the government is going to tell me and my colleagues that it is the BILD program, I would have to say that Ontario is going to go nowhere because that in itself is not adequate.

I am going to move on because the throne speech, in my view, gets bogged down at that point. They stress a little bit the buy-Canadian theme, the fact that we must be more emphatic in presenting that theme. They get into talking about preserving existing jobs as well as creating new job opportunities and enhancing our industrial capacity in developing new market opportunities throughout the world.

Let me stop at that point and submit that one of the areas we have to be concerned about—and this is pretty vague and general—with respect to creating new job opportunities and enhancing our industrial capacity is northern Ontario. Again, there is precious little in government policy or in this throne speech that accommodates that part of our province. If we have a problem, I would say to my friend from Cochrane North, it is because we have a we-they attitude: we here in the south, and they there. It is almost as if we had another colony. That kind of we-they attitude, that kind of we-they approach to northern Ontario, is not going to bring Ontario together. That is where we are going to sink or swim as a whole province. We have got to put the nonsense aside on this we-they, north-south attitude and bring it all together.

We get into the next theme in this throne speech, the new IDEA Corp. The IDEA Corp. could be taken almost as a carbon copy of something we submitted a couple of years ago. My colleague from London Centre, my former colleague from Lincoln, a couple of other members of my caucus and our former leader, Dr. Smith, worked on what was known as An Industrial Strategy for Ontario. That was a paper we were very proud of as a political party because it was such a forward-looking document or blueprint for an industrial strategy for this province.

9:10 p.m.

The civil servants in this province quickly learned how important that document was. The standing bit of humour around here a few years

ago was, "You will find two things in the upper lefthand drawer, the telephone directory and a copy of the industrial strategy paper." They had to know what was in it. It was a good paper. One of the themes was this business of co-operation between industry and education. This was part of our platform in the last election. Not too many people listened to it, unfortunately, but now the government of Ontario is saying it is not all a bad idea.

Getting to the Urban Transportation Development Corp., those members who were in the House earlier today are aware of some of the problems of UTDC. Our critics over the years have suggested that the various enterprises of UTDC should better be left with the private sector. When one gets into the argument of research and the development of things that will help the province, and the argument of where the government should step in or out, one would have an ongoing argument with good points to be made on each side. But when one sees abuses of UTDC, such as the provision of X number of automobiles and over \$1- million worth of housing for a branch of government that will be using the services of UTDC in another province, I call that an abuse. Somewhere along the way the government will have to reassess just where and how far it is going to try to go with UTDC.

Reference is made in the next breath to the Toronto Stock Exchange and the need for the exchange to get more involved with what is known as venture capital. This is the sort of schizophrenic approach the government has, getting involved in one area and then saying to private enterprise in another area, "You take over." I am not sure if I am overplaying this blueprint thing, but the government of Ontario lacks a major plan of development in all areas for this province of ours.

The New Democrats who spoke in the throne speech debate today have commented on the next item I want to dwell on, particularly the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds), who spoke very well. He pointed out there was considerable verbiage in the throne speech related to the tourist industry. We find references on pages 15 and 16, etc., on the tourist industry. We have to wonder, with all the good things said about it, why the tourist industry is now so absolutely angry with the government.

A point not made earlier today, which I delight in being able to make, is that as of January 1 the seven per cent sales tax went back on for rooms in motels and hotels in Ontario. If

we marry that to the cheaper cost of gasoline, particularly in the United States, the ripple effect could well be that the swing will be away from Ontario.

When an industry is doing so well and when the taxing of it will not have any great impact on government revenue, why bother? Why stick one's nose in and foul up something that is going relatively well? I would have to wager again that the tourist industry could well suffer from the government's meddling in and out of this sales tax proposition. Rooms are costly enough in Ontario compared to other parts of North America, as any members who travel know well.

I want to move from the part of the throne speech that deals with northern Ontario to another theme, the proposal that the Ministry of Transportation and Communications will be introducing a child restraint program in the form of legislation. We are all mindful of the controversy we had in this House not too many years ago about mandatory seatbelts. The evidence is there that, despite the objections of some, that program has been relatively successful. The child restraint program will likely be successful also.

Then why does this government not demand that young people going into our school system be immunized against such communicable diseases as measles? Last week I presented a private member's bill to amend the Education Act, which would make it mandatory for young people coming into the school system to be immunized against measles, very specifically, because measles is a killer. The United States has mandatory immunization against measles and the incidence of measles there is about one tenth of what it is here in Canada or in Ontario. Ontario is the leader in Canada.

I could give any number of statistics to prove the need for going back to immunization, but what is the government saying? Last fall it said: "We have a new card, a piece of paper the school will complete when young Johnny and Susie are brought in for a preliminary interview at age 4 or 5 whenever they go into kindergarten or grade 1. We will impress on the parents the importance and significance of having the child immunized by the family doctor, or whoever."

The school system will not make it mandatory. It is left up to the parents. I am sure all parents have the very best of intentions, but the fact is that a lot of our children are not immunized. A lot of them get measles and suffer needless damage as a result of the infection. Why can we not expect to see that kind of good

thing in the throne speech when we see such items as the child restraint program coming in the form of legislation? I think they almost go hand in hand.

With regard to the observations in the throne speech about diagnostic equipment for cancer, that terrible affliction in North America, and for heart disease, that kind of presentation simply cannot be criticized and I commend it. At the same time, and now I will sound like the government because, while I commend them, I am also going to criticize them for a moment, I have to ask what is the government of Ontario's overall plan to encourage medical research in this province. Ontario has some of the finest universities in North America. We have some of the very best medical researchers in the world. Yet when we look for a description or plan for medical research we find a hotchpotch.

Let me give the House one specific. I am sorry the member for Armourdale (Mr. McCaffrey) is not here because I want to pay him a compliment. He might read Hansard and get that compliment. A couple of years ago, he and I had the pleasure of sitting together on the board of directors of a charitable organization known as ALSS; that is, the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Society. What is ALS? That was Lou Gehrig's disease. It is a devastating disease, and it is here in Ontario.

The ALS Society is a relatively new society. The member for Armourdale and I got involved for different reasons. Once we got involved, we had hoped, as members of the Legislative Assembly, we might know our way around and be able to find out how a charitable organization goes about seeking assistance for funding. We wanted to try to encourage medical research in this area. However, I have not been very successful.

9:20 p.m.

The member for Armourdale has had to leave the board because he has been elevated to the cabinet and that would have been a conflict of interest. But the point is that he and I together, opposite members, tried to work together to find out what the blueprint was for medical research here in Ontario and even though this is 1982, we could not find it.

For the life of me, I cannot understand why the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) does not put someone aside and say: "All right, this is your job. Put together a program. We will bring it back and if cabinet buys it, away we go." They have not done it. I say shame on the minister for

not doing it. He has been here long enough. He should have taken the initiative and run with it, but he has not done that.

I am going to stop with the direct references to the throne speech because that pretty well covers the main items. The next thing I want to do, briefly, is to make reference to my community of London, Ontario, and to what they perceive to be some of the needs here in our province and what they feel about a handful of issues that have come to the attention of people in Ontario in this last year or so.

I did a little survey when we got into the Suncor issue. Members will recall that the Speaker of the moment is the gentleman who had the pleasure, or misfortune, to ask me to leave the chamber last fall when I objected to the government bringing in closure on our debate. I felt very strongly on that, but did not have the opportunity to speak as I had to leave the chamber.

Sixty-eight per cent of the people in London, Ontario, who were asked said they were not in favour of the Suncor venture. However, 90 per cent said they would be in favour of manufacturing industries in Ontario being required to participate in training programs to produce skilled workers, rather than relying on the import of such skilled labour. That, of course, gives some support to the recommendations in the throne speech.

When asked if they would be in favour of a new industrial strategy for Ontario which would give preferential treatment to Canadian-owned and managed businesses, 77 per cent of them said, "Indeed we would." When asked if they believed that research and development in Ontario should be funded at a higher level to lessen our dependency on foreign control, 79 per cent said, "Yes, indeed we would." Almost half of those asked were in favour of the curtailment of government services as a way to lower taxes. They were also asked if they were in favour of the Ontario government's spending over \$10 million for a new jet. Members will not be surprised to hear that 89 per cent said no.

Last year's throne speech spoke in very glowing terms of the encouragement the government of Ontario was going to provide for the community of London through promoting a plant known as the energy-from-waste plant. For the information of those not familiar with our community, our large municipal hospital is being relocated on the groundsite of the federal veterans' hospital. Victoria is moving over to Westminster. It is the biggest single health

project and the largest hospital expenditure of this decade in Ontario. It is a very significant program.

The government was going to take the lead, but then some citizens started to say, "If they are going to create energy from waste, what will the effect be on the environment?" Then it became a question of whether there should be an environmental impact study or an assessment. Unfortunately, the Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch), who should have taken the lead here and in a sense should have taken the heat off the member for London South (Mr. Walker), sat back and did not do that.

For the record, let me pass on to the House the observations of our city council which, through its mayor, sent a letter to the Minister of Energy that reads in part as follows:

"On February 4, 1982, your parliamentary assistant, Philip Andrewes, spoke at the London Chamber of Commerce, where he gave strong support to the proposed energy-from-waste plant at Victoria Hospital. While it was pleasant to hear of that commitment, it would have been more reassuring had such words come from the minister himself. There is a strong feeling here that the Ministry of Energy, which should be the lead ministry in this exciting concept, has failed to provide the initiative expected."

There was a little bit of heat from the community and the ministry seemed to back off. If the government is convinced that it has a good project, then it has to have the intestinal fortitude to stand with it and not back off and shilly-shally as it has done in this case. It has made a commitment and the city now is feeling very concerned that they might be trying to walk away from the commitment. The mayor's final few words were:

"I hope that Mr. Andrewes' statement is indicative of a new trust and that your ministry will now commit itself to this project. Such can be demonstrated by assuring the financing to Victoria from the Ministry of Energy. Until such financial assurance is given, the energy-from-waste project cannot proceed."

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): I must ask the members who are having loud conversations to do so in another place or to lower their voices.

Mr. Van Horne: I appreciate that, Mr. Speaker.

Of course, the things we say, on the strength of the feeling from the home base sometimes do

not have that great an impact on people who perceive themselves to be involved just with the largess of Ontario and not the individual parts that make it up.

The other observation from my community comes from the academic community. I would point out to members that there is considerable worry at the University of Western Ontario, which is in my riding and which I am proud to represent, as there is at Fanshawe College, which is also in my riding and which I am also very proud to represent. It is a worry that says to the staff, "We, the staff, are not sure where we are going during this next decade because of the funding problems and the problems that Ontario and other provinces have had in trying to renegotiate the established programs funding agreement."

The other side of it is students and the effect this ongoing funding problem is having on them. We all know there is going to be a tuition fee increase next year; the students are quite aware of that. How much they can bear is another issue. Beyond that, one has to keep in mind the final spinoff of this increase in tuition fees and the effect it has on those who are less able to pay.

I would like to quote something that Leonard Shifrin said very succinctly in an article in the *London Free Press*. He said: "Calculating the respective contributions of various income groups to the tax-supported costs of universities and comparing that with the distribution of benefits, the Carleton study finds the results decidedly regressive. Lower-income families contribute proportionately less than higher-income families to the cost of universities, of course, but so few of their children derive any benefits from them that the poor wind up subsidizing the children of the rich to become the next generation of top income earners."

I am not sure this is the commitment any of us want to see this government make, that is, that the rich become richer and the poor become poorer, that universities become accessible only to those who can afford it financially and that colleges become available only to those who can afford it. If that is the direction, it is time for a change.

9:30 p.m.

My final comments are on the North. I have to ask, where does the north fit into the government's system of priorities? From listening to the throne speech I would say it is not very high. Of the approximately 710 lines printed in Hansard, a whopping 22 lines referred to program initiatives

specifically for the north. Of these, two issues were directly addressed: pilot projects using peat and waste wood and extended care services for the elderly. Of course, I cannot quarrel with either of those; of themselves they are good programs.

With escalating energy prices we need to turn our attention to alternative fuels. My colleague the member for Halton-Burlington (Mr. J. A. Reed) has been singing this song and beating this drum trying to get this theme across for years, as has all our party.

Peat is an obvious alternative in Ontario. Although we have few conventional hydrocarbon resources we do have vast peat land areas. The peat land area of Ontario is estimated to be about 26,000,000 hectares according to the study last year by Mononco Ontario Ltd. for the Ministry of Natural Resources. About 9.9 million hectares, corresponding to about 41.7 billion tons of peat, is estimated to be south of the permafrost limit. This is roughly equivalent to 72 billion barrels of oil if all the peat land were considered available for energy production.

The study shows peat land development is not expected to have a severe or significant impact on the environment. However, it warns that experience in this area is still lacking and that this developing technology needs to be monitored in regard to its possible environmental impact. To alleviate environmental concerns requires careful research programs, including a well-planned system of guidelines and regulations to ensure wise and orderly development. When we look through the throne speech I am not sure we find that.

Next I would commend the government's commitment in the throne speech to deal with the needs of elderly people living in small and remote communities in northern Ontario. Adequate health care continues to be a problem in the north as it does in many areas in the south. It is difficult to have a sophisticated hospital and backup medical and paramedical personnel system in every small community or hamlet in the north.

The intention to establish small facilities suitable for the provision of extended care services for elderly people, allowing them to receive the care they need closer to home, is one I wholeheartedly support and I am awaiting the development of this program.

What is of concern to me is the sin, not of commission but of omission. In the throne speech it said, "We in the government of

Ontario have always believed that the creation and maintenance of productive employment must be our central concern."

This speech says nothing about a strategy to stimulate economic development to provide jobs in the north. Lack of diversity in northern Ontario's industrial development is largely responsible for the area's weak economic structure. Job opportunities are limited and the principal source of employment continues to be the capital intensive mining and forestry sectors.

Yesterday, my colleague and I telephoned the district economist for northern Ontario to learn that 33,000 of northern Ontario's total labour force of 333,000 were out of work. This is a marked increase over 1980 when 25,000 of the total labour force of 328,000 did not have jobs. Comparing these statistics with those of 1976 the difference is even more arresting. That year, northern Ontario's labour force numbered 297,000 with 21,000 unemployed.

Employment opportunities simply have not expanded despite substantial increases in productivity. With automation and mechanization in the mining and forestry sectors, the lack of job opportunities will continue to exist. It is my hope that in this government's upcoming budget, job creation in the north will be a priority. To neglect to do this will be seen by northerners as blatant disinterest in their economic plight at this time.

In the throne speech, a commitment was made by the Ministry of Natural Resources to upgrade and accelerate the construction of resource access roads in the north, thereby creating new jobs. I would like to point out to the minister this construction will only provide temporary employment. What is needed in the north is the establishment of secondary and tertiary industry so that these jobs will remain in the north. In other words, we do not want to see that ongoing migration to the west or to the south which unfortunately is a fact of the north.

Another commitment made in the throne speech was provision of GO rail service as far north as the Bradford area. Further, bus service will be improved to carry passengers north to Barrie from the end of the rail service. This will satisfy those who commute to Toronto from the places where the rail service was trimmed by last year's Via Rail cutbacks. What of the rail services that were discontinued or reduced in the north, such as the Capreol, Hornepayne and Sudbury-White River runs? What is going to be done with them?

To some people living in small communities

along these lines the train represents their only means of transportation. Catering only to the Barrie area underscores this government's lack of concern for the people living in what they might call the true north or certainly the north beyond Barrie. It remains my hope that a greater commitment in the way of job creation programs and other services in the north will be evident in the budget.

I am proud to be our caucus member working in the area of northern affairs. I want to be part of a Legislature that works to help the north, and I use that word very carefully, not just a political party but a process of the Legislature that works to help the north. I am afraid when I asked a question of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope), such as I did this afternoon about the closing of the mine in Pickle Lake, I was rather summarily dismissed by the minister. He said the committee that was looking into single-industry communities was talked about in the estimates last year. That is not good enough.

We can have it with the gloves on or with the gloves off. If that is the way the ministry or the government wants to take the attack, that is fine with me. I would rather we tried to work together with the problems of the north, but if they want to put the gloves on, okay, that's fine. I am going to work to represent my community in London, Ontario, and I am also going to work to represent and to speak on those issues that affect northern Ontario. I will continue to do that until I lose my place in this chamber.

I hope the government takes this to heart; it takes two to tango. We are prepared and willing to work but at times it is tough to dance with a corpse. I am submitting to the government that it must get some life into itself, it must breathe some life into this throne speech and show some real evidence of its sincerity through the budget and through what it is going to do in this next year.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to rise to speak in this debate on the speech from the throne. As other members have stated, I too recognize in speaking on this that generally there is not a line of print given to any of the members except to the leaders of the parties. I also recognize that there is not going to be any change whatsoever made in the policies of the government by any of the speeches that are made.

In spite of that, I am particularly happy to rise tonight if it is only to give recognition to the fact that my grandson, Spencer Snowling, is a page

at the present time at Queen's Park, and his mother, father and paternal grandparents are in the gallery this evening to see him perform, not me.

9:40 p.m.

There is another reason I am glad to comment on the speech from the throne. It does give us a chance to talk, if we want to, about some of the basic issues in our economy, in our society and in our party. Certainly the throne speech we are debating tonight is being debated at a time when the Canadian economy in general and in this province in particular is at its worst crisis since the Great Depression. I remember that depression very distinctly, and I and others who experienced it see the parallel pattern that is emerging at the present time.

We have massive unemployment. Statistics Canada figures show there are really something like 560,000 people out of work in this province, and in this nation as a whole it is up to about 1.8 million at the present time. Those of us who move around our communities know that young people are disillusioned now, as they were during those depression years; that small and even large plants are idle or working only part time; that people are losing their homes, as they were in those depression years; that there are all kinds of bankruptcies, both business and personal; that the social consequences, the family breakups, the excessive alcoholism and even the animosity directed against immigrants in our society are all taking place to a greater extent than they otherwise would. It is because we have this depression and people are unemployed.

Once again, as in that depression, it is really want in the midst of plenty. Many people desperately need the goods and services we could be providing from idle plants, idle hands and idle skills, but the system prohibits us from doing so. We have all the ingredients, but we do not have the economic system to put them together, provincially or federally, so as to have full employment and full production.

The ultimate worry to me in this deplorable situation is that the governments of today—it does not matter whether it is the Liberals in Ottawa or the Tories in this Legislature—50 years after the last depression are floundering in the same way they did in the 1930s. They are taking exactly the same attitude towards massive unemployment and refusing to make the fundamental economic reforms that are necessary to deal with the problem.

The throne speech is a visual demonstration

of that ineptness, the blinkered mind, the outdated philosophy, the Band-Aid approach of this government. There is no fundamental move or change of any kind in that speech. They are the same sort of Band-Aids we have been getting year after year. Some of them have a bit of adhesive left, some have none, and they disappeared when the Lieutenant Governor closed the cover on the throne speech.

Each year we get these little tidbits packaged in glowing terms, and each year the economy of the province gets worse. That has been the situation ever since I have been in this Legislature. We get these tidbits in glowing terms in the throne speech, but there is the same paucity of anything real in the document we have before us. They say:

"Global funding for youth employment this year will be increased and greater emphasis given to creating job opportunities for out-of-school youth on a year-round basis.

"Capital works programs supported by this government will be accelerated, thus providing employment in the construction industry . . .

"The recently announced forest improvement project will be expanded . . . special employment initiatives will be adopted by the Ministry of Natural Resources to upgrade and accelerate the construction of resource access roads . . . federal authorities will be encouraged to consider new programs by which funds normally paid as unemployment insurance can be directed and supplemented to provide employment in other areas of worthwhile endeavours . . . the government will attempt to determine which companies can be saved through our highly successful buy-back programs."

The throne speech also stresses that the farm assistance program will be broadened to help a greater number of farmers; that the government places a high priority on continuing to attract young people to establish themselves in this vital sector of our economy and will introduce a new measure to provide them with startup capital assistance. They are going to stimulate sales of Ontario food products and reduce our dependency on imports.

The throne speech goes on and on, but when this year goes out the economic situation in this province will be worse than when the year began. While they may be providing handfuls of jobs here, bushel barrels of them will be disappearing because of the economic policy and philosophy of this government. Make no mistake about it, putting another nail here or there in a crumbling structure will not reverse

its condition. Major rehabilitation must be taken from the foundation up, and the government must give that kind of leadership, or give way to a party that will give that kind of leadership and that kind of program.

Our massive economic problems—and I am sure everybody in the House must realize this—are not due to an act of God or of some supreme being. They are the direct results of human decisions, of government decisions. I will admit that no country can isolate itself totally from world economic conditions, but our problems are mainly the results of the action and the inaction of our federal and provincial governments.

The goal of the NDP is government action to ensure that the major economic decisions are made on the basis of what is good for Canadians and Ontarians, what is good for employment and what is good for production. But the Liberals and the Conservatives traditionally leave these major economic decisions to the private sector, mainly to the multinationals, to be made on the basis of what is good for them and their shareholders, which is really on the basis of what is good for profit.

What is good for Canada, what is good for employment, what is good even for production, is a secondary, perhaps even third or fourth, motive. The real motive of the operation of our economy and the real motive of the economic decision-making process is profits. If we are to get out of this problem we are in, the primary goal has to be jobs and maximum production. There can be no prosperity unless that is the goal that is set.

High interest rates are a typical example of our government's refusal to intervene for the public good. Although technically set by the Bank of Canada, in reality interest rates are and have been determined by private financial institutions. The public, including much of the business sector, knows we would be much better off with dramatically lower interest rates. We all know that more houses would be built and would be sold.

Our research department computed what the difference would be in annual cost per year of all the mortgages in Canada if the rate was 10 per cent vis-à-vis 20 per cent, and found that it would cost home owners an additional \$5 billion to \$6 billion annually on their mortgages at the latter rate.

Surely we must know what that does not only in the purchase of homes but in the use of the disposable income to buy the other goods in our

society. Think how many more cars could be bought if that money was available for those kinds of purchases, or even if money was available to buy the cars at interest rates at half of what they are at the present time. Farmers would buy more machinery and small business would expand.

9:50 p.m.

John Bulloch of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business has never been considered to be a left wing person or to represent a left wing organization, but his association did a survey of small business. I quote from the *Toronto Star*, January 12 of this year: "Close to one third of a sample of the country's small businesses say they will close down, sell part of their business or be forced into bankruptcy if interest rates remain at current levels throughout 1982, said the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. 'This information clearly shows that the independent business sector is being severely hurt by high interest rates,' John Bulloch said."

Here we have an organization which certainly is not against free or private enterprise saying the government must intervene to bring down interest rates. Yet nothing is done about it. There would be some negative consequences of a lower interest rate such as paying more for imports, but we could use more of our own products and make more here. We could use export controls to control the flight of capital, as many other countries have done. That is not difficult. On balance, the advantages of lower interest rates far outweigh the disadvantages.

I have to deal with one statement that is frequently made with regard to interest rates and why we must keep them up. Prime Minister Trudeau says we must keep them up. He says, "The main objective of the budget and high interest rates must be to keep inflation under control."

That is the phoniest statement that could possibly have been made. Anyone who examines the effect of high interest rates knows they are built into the structure of the price. For example, if it is a farmer who has to borrow money at high interest rates—I know the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) does not have to borrow any money, he is on the other end of that, but for those who do have to—

Mr. Nixon: I think you have your whole salary invested at 19.5 per cent in those federal bonds.

Mr. Swart: The majority of farmers are not in the position of the member for Brant-Oxford-

Norfolk and have to borrow money for their seed. That finds its way into the price structure. It certainly finds its way into the price structure for homes. At the present time I am handling a number of rent reviews and some of those have been awarded increases of 35 per cent.

There is only one reason the landlord is getting 35 per cent and that is because he has had to refinance his mortgage and that is built into the price structure. It is a totally phoney argument to say that interest rates are kept high to fight inflation. We have inflation as high as we have because of high interest rates. If we keep interest rates at the level they are now, they are going to be built in more and more and it will become more and more difficult to bring down inflation, or what is really price escalation.

Lately we have had the government of this province saying these high interest rates are hurting our economy. In the throne speech it states clearly: "We have been asked by the federal government to bear the additional burden of high interest rates. High interest rates remove incentive, make risks less attractive, particularly to the small business community, and as a result cause homes and farms to be lost or make it impossible for many of our citizens to even contemplate owning a house. They limit investment, reduce consumer purchases and reduce the demand for manufactured and other products, to which employment in this province is so closely tied."

That is a factual statement, there is no question about that. But do the Conservatives really want to take the necessary measures to intervene to lower the interest rate? Do the federal Conservatives? No, they say so quite frankly. This government across the floor here has told us—the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) has told us repeatedly—that it cannot intervene on high interest rates. Now the government is saying—I suppose the polls have shown that high interest rates are unpopular—there should be a policy whereby interest rates will be lowered.

But it is significant that they do not say the federal government should take direct action and intervene with the Bank of Canada to force interest rates down. When they talk about lowering interest rates, really all they are saying over there is: "The federal government does not manage the economy very well. That is why we have high interest rates. They had better manage the economy better." They do not want to intervene. Neither the Liberals nor the Conservatives want to intervene to force interest rates

down even though they know, as everybody else knows, that would be a substantial benefit to our society. No, they will not intervene, and that is the real reason interest rates are so high. They have a hands-off attitude to the economy.

New Democrats believe in an economic strategy and we believe in intervening. For instance, Canada desperately needs a resource machinery industry to produce the mining, forestry and oil extraction machinery we now import. We must take responsibility to ensure that our natural resources are processed here, that the capital is reinvested here and not shipped abroad, that there is sufficient purchasing power in the hands of the consumers to buy the goods we produce. In short, there must be an enforceable overall economic plan. Without that framework, economic chaos is inevitable. Like the United States with Reagan and the United Kingdom with Thatcher, we are experiencing that chaos in this nation and in this province at the present time.

The Liberals and the Conservatives also talk about economic strategy. I think perhaps superficially they believe in economic strategy, but neither of them will intervene and make the hard tough decisions necessary to enforce it, as they have done in a place like Saskatchewan.

When the private sector out there decided it was going to control the potash industry because it owned it, even though it was a natural resource, the government of Saskatchewan said, "That natural resource is going to be used for the benefit of Saskatchewan, and, if you do not follow those policies, the government of this province will intervene and see they are followed." The end result of that was that the government of Saskatchewan took over 50 per cent of the potash industry and it has been a tremendous success since that time. The important thing is that the benefits of that natural resource have accrued to the people of Saskatchewan and not to some multinational corporation.

We say we must have this overall economic framework and within that framework the private sector can perform effectively and most often, and I say this advisedly, more efficiently than public enterprise can. But government certainly must intervene to establish the overall economic plan, to make the overall economic decisions, to ensure that those decisions conform to the public good. The Liberals and Conservatives philosophically will not take that necessary step, and that is a basic reason our economy is in the mess it is in today.

Last evening in this House I had a debate with the new Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie), which also dealt with the matter of intervention on behalf of the public. His comments are a further indication that his government, like the federal Liberals, will not intervene to protect the public, even where there is overwhelming evidence. We were debating my request for the minister to intervene in the massive increases in home heating gas rates. I pointed out to him in question period that the average home heating gas costs will increase from \$657 in 1981 to more than \$900 in 1982, an increase of somewhere between 35 and 40 per cent.

10 p.m.

Mr. J. A. Reed: It is all because of the tax.

Mr. Swart: No, it is not all because of the tax. If the member had been here last night he would have heard me state the breakdown of the reasons for the increase. The Ontario Energy Board allowed a 65 percent markup this time, four times the amount it ever allowed before. It allowed a 65 per cent markup over the taxes and the wholesale cost of the gas. That was all passed through and allowed.

I pointed out to the minister that the profits to Consumers' Gas Co., which got this increase as well as the other companies, had risen in 1981 from \$90 million to \$107 million. That was a 19 per cent increase, so it is not doing too badly. The new increases would give the company an additional \$77 million. I suggested that perhaps this was worth taking a second look at.

The Ontario Energy Board said it was giving these amounts to guarantee a 16.25 per cent return on equity at a time when many other businesses are not even breaking even, they are going broke. Last year in Canada a survey showed that the utilities had a 40 per cent increase in profit. When almost all other sectors of our economy had a reduction the utilities, whose rates are set by the Liberal government and the Conservative government, had a 40 per cent increase in profit.

I suggested to the minister that maybe the hearing that had set these new rates had not been entirely fair. The Ontario Energy Board at its hearings, like most of the other hearings, sits as a court and hears the evidence from each side. At the 19-day hearing that set these rates—I checked into this—Consumers' Gas Co. had a raft of lawyers there and 20 expert witnesses to testify for the gas companies.

Mr. Philip: Where was the province?

Mr. Swart: As always, it was not there. On the other side, there was the Industrial Gas Users Association, the industries in the province that use gas, which had one witness there. They are getting a pretty good deal on it. There were the manufacturers of the heat pumps, who were there to protect their interests so they would not have to pay more because they installed heat pumps—there is less consumption of gas; they had one witness there. Then there was the Urban Development Institute, which had a watching brief. There was not one single person at the hearing representing the consumers, and this kind of decision was made.

So I said to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations that he has responsibility for protecting the consumer and under the authority that exists to appeal within 28 days, he should appeal this and have cabinet look at it further. Those members who were in the House the day before yesterday know that his only answer to me was, "I will refer your question to the Minister of Energy." Because this answer was unsatisfactory we had a special debate in the House on Tuesday night. The government simply refuses to intervene on behalf of the public. I have said before and I say again today, hearings like that are like the elephants dancing among the chickens and saying, "Everyone for themselves." That is exactly the way it is.

The same thing holds true for Bell Canada. Last year Bell Canada applied for a massive increase in rates on services which would bring them \$550 million. It said there was a desperate need for this additional revenue. After a lengthy, again one-sided hearing, it was awarded a \$440 million increase. I protested the award at the time. I wrote to the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) and said this increase was unreasonable. He said, "We will take a look at it, and if it is unreasonable then we will appeal it." The profits of Bell Canada came out around the end of January, and we found then that their profits had more than doubled from the previous year, up 105 per cent to \$559 million net profit; 25 per cent higher than it ever was before in their history.

Not only that, but they were going to apply an additional eight per cent increase to the telephone users in Metropolitan Toronto to be effective May 1. I immediately wrote to the minister again and said: "Say no. Contact the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission and say, 'No, we will not put up with that increase of eight per cent with the profits they are making and with the

likelihood of far higher profits this year;" because most of that \$440 million had not even applied to last year. I also asked him to do what they had done in Florida, where the telephone company had made excessive profits: and to order the telephone company to return them to the users.

I calculated that it would have been perfectly reasonable to give one month's free telephone service to every telephone user in Ontario. I asked him to do that, and he wrote back a snarky letter defending Bell and refused to consider it, even though he has the record that in places like Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta the same telephone service is given for 20 per cent less because, of course, out there it is owned by the provinces. If they can run it for those rates, surely Bell Canada should be able to do the same thing here.

Why does a government refuse to intervene on these matters? Some say, of course, that it is because they get political contributions from these big corporations, and there is some validity to that. Some say it is because they have friends, that those people who operate those corporations are very close friends of theirs. Some say they do not police gas rates as firmly as they should because they have people there like Darcy McKeough, who used to be a cabinet minister here; there are very close associations with the government here.

I think there is some truth to all of that, but the main reason they do not intervene is their philosophy that they will not interfere with the private sector. It does not matter to them that these are monopolies, that there is in fact no competition. They will not bring them under public ownership, as many of them should be when they are natural monopolies, when they are essential utilities. They will not even appoint a public advocate, as they have in so many places in the United States, where they fight the rate hearings on behalf of the consumers. No, they just let these companies set their rates almost at will.

In fact, competition in our society, not only in those areas but in other areas, is rapidly disappearing. The government will not even intervene to ensure that there is protection for the consumer in that respect. I have done quite a bit of investigation with the help of research people on many consumer items, such as milk. We know that the number of dairies processing milk has dropped from something like 165 to 35 in the last 12 years, that very few cities in this province have more than one dairy. A great

many cities do not have any dairies left at all. The competition in that area is rapidly disappearing.

I did an investigation into ethylene glycol, Prestone. There are only two companies that make it in Canada. They get fabulous profits from it. They admitted quite frankly that when there is a shortage they raise the price 75 per cent in one year. They tell me they would have raised it a bit further—in fact, they did raise it a bit further—but there was some consumer resistance so they lowered it again. There are only three companies in Ontario that supply salt. They have submitted the same bids per ton of salt to all municipalities in this province for the last 10 or 15 years.

Mr. Haggerty: If I go over to the US to buy gas for my car it is cheaper.

10:10 p.m.

Mr. Swart: That is your problem if you wish to go to the US to do that, but I guess you are right. Before too long it is going to be quite a bit cheaper, even with the dollar differential, than it is here. But that is not the point. The point is that we should have governments that are giving some protection to the consumers of this province. That is true of breakfast cereals as well.

The concentration of the control of the economy in specific areas, and in fact as a whole, has grown and is growing rapidly so that consumer protection through competition is rapidly disappearing. Those are not only my words. Those are the words of Mr. André Ouellet, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs in Ottawa. He says that our combines legislation must be toughened because there is price fixing and we cannot get at it. So he has proposed, as he has been proposing for the last 10, 15 or 20 years, that the act should be amended to give that kind of protection.

I quote from the London Free Press of June 16, 1981: "Canadians can expect tough new legislation to control business mergers, monopolies and conspiracies that are not in the public interest, federal Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister André Ouellet told the annual meeting of the Consumers Association of Canada here Monday. Ouellet said there is considerable urgency for such legislation. It is vital for Canada's future to act now, particularly in the area of mergers. He said he hopes to introduce legislation this fall." Of course, that was last fall.

Let me read another quotation of his. On June

15, 1981, André Ouellet said: "Canada has the highest concentration of corporate power of any of the western democracies but the weakest anti-combines legislation," and therefore he is going to bring in legislation to improve that.

Mr. Wildman: The Liberals have been in power for a while in Ottawa.

Mr. Swart: Yes, I think they have been in power for a while and I have all kinds of newspaper clippings where they have talked about toughening the anti-combines legislation year after year, decade after decade. That statement by Ouellet, after they have been there for 30 years with minor exceptions, condemns them.

Robert Bertrand, the former director of our federal anti-combines branch, was quoted in the New York Times. He said: "What we will have if this march of increased concentration continues is a national oligarchy in which a few dozen people will interact to bargain about the economic future of millions."

That ought to scare us just a little bit. Then Mr. Ouellet himself, speaking to the Montreal Chamber of Commerce again, said: "Time is short since we are presently witnessing a new outbreak in the area of mergers and acquisitions in the country. If this phenomenon should continue for another three or four years at the same pace, the control of the entire Canadian economy could be literally in the hands of six or seven people."

That ought to be a little bit frightening to us because Mr. Ouellet is no radical. He is not a member of the New Democratic Party. He is way over to the right of that and yet he is making statements like that.

The present legislation that is on the federal books requires that if a prosecution takes place they have to prove that competition is unduly lessened because of a merger. They have to prove intent to lessen competition and they also must prove that there is an actual conspiracy to set prices. They have to prove all three of these things. It is just impossible. So they want to change the legislation and, of course, they are running into problems now, even in their own ranks.

What I really want to refer to here—I will be finishing by 10:30 p.m., Mr. Speaker—is the attitude of the government across the way to anti-combines legislation and to the whole principle of competition.

I have here a speech made by the Minister of Industry and Trade Development (Mr. Walker), when he was Provincial Secretary for Justice

and Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, to the federal-provincial consumer ministers' conference, September 3, 1981. He talks about this proposal by the federal government to toughen anti-combines legislation to give protection to consumers. This is what he says:

"This policy will break the back and spirit of Canadian business. We do not see a compelling need for substantial change in current combines legislation, nor do we consider a new competition policy to be a priority at this time. We fail to understand how a numerical computation of market share can conclude that a company is acting or likely to act against the public interest."

Let me read some more of what the minister had to say in that speech: "We also object to the presupposition that just because a company is dominant in its industry its market power is therefore detrimental to the consumer interest. Large and dominant companies are increasingly sensitive to the dangers of antagonizing not only governments but also their own suppliers and customers. It is simply contrary to good business practice in an environment where governments, news media, consumer groups and analysts are ever vigilant. Market share, as already noted, is not a logical or a fair test."

Then there is this significant statement, and I am sure this must be government policy: "We believe that conscious parallelism"—that is the same price for all the companies—"should not be subject to conspiracy provisions"—it does not matter how long it goes on—"as long as they have no written agreement." The minister is telling us it is government policy that it should not be subject to conspiracy provisions. Finally he says, "For these and other reasons, Ontario must oppose the proposed competition policy." Let me tell you—

Mr. Wildman: Who said that?

Mr. Swart: It is the former Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, who has some reputation but is also speaking as a member of the government. In this 10-page speech on the competition legislation of the federal government he does not state one word on the need for competition. Nowhere in the whole document did he say there is a need for competition.

Mr. Wildman: You would think a free enterpriser like him would want competition.

Mr. Swart: No, you see there is a real change in right-wing private, not free, enterprisers, a

real change in their attitudes. Not so many years ago competition was the lifeblood of the economy. That has gone by the board. It is not their thrust or belief any more.

I have an article in front of me by John Kenneth Galbraith which talks about this very subject and I want to quote from it. It says:

"Generations of conservative economists at the University of Chicago and elsewhere were educated by the late Henry Simons and his brilliant and uncompromising tract, *A Positive Program for Laissez-faire*, to the belief that a vigilant government and citizenry could defend competition and the market against monopoly and the ultimate debacle. Simons's students, those of the revered Frank H. Knight, his colleagues and those in further descent therefrom, made the competitive market a totem. Indeed, no totemic symbol ever so marked a tribe as those free enterprisers.

"Coming now to the present, these are the men who are now prominent in public positions of moral suasion in the Reagan administration. From none elsewhere in the world could one expect a more powerful defence of competition and the market. Coinciding with the arrival of the dedicated defenders of the competitive market and the entrepreneur in Washington, has come a terrific assault on both, an assault on competition. It is probably the most massive such attack in history."

10:20 p.m.

The papers each day tell the story. During the first six months of 1981, the dollar value of American corporate acquisitions at \$35.7 billion was nearly as great as for all of 1980. This was before the recent really great acceleration. Even the largest companies such as Conoco, the ninth largest oil company, are no longer immune from takeover. This assault, this merger, this takeover frenzy, as it is being called, was occurring with the evident approval of the very administration on which the hopes of the defenders of the market and of the entrepreneurs were centred.

So we have this shift in the United States, this Reaganism. The Minister of Industry and Trade Development was a great admirer of Reagan at that time; he was studying Reaganomics. This government, and for that matter the government in Ottawa, are applying the same kind of policies.

Mr. Boudria: The member should not exaggerate. They have the same interest rates in Germany. He knows that.

Mr. Swart: The government in Ottawa is not going to pass the new anti-combines legislation, in spite of what Ouellet has said. The right-wingers in the Liberal Party there are going to prevent it from being passed—

Mr. Mancini: Name one; just name one.

Mr. Swart: —and they are going to let competition slip away the same as it has been slipping away in the United States. It is probably fair to say that the NDP does not only want to assure that major economic decisions are made on the basis of what is good for society, but that we have become the defenders of competitive enterprise.

Mr. Mancini: The member believes in state enterprise only.

Mr. Swart: We believe in, and we are fighting now to defend, free enterprise because competition is going. We want to keep competition in our society and working in the framework of overall economic decisions to see that they are made on the basis of what is good for Canada and for Ontario.

Let me conclude by referring briefly to just one other area, foreign control of our economy. Most people and institutions recognize the danger of foreign ownership. Even the Tories in Ottawa were forced to reverse themselves on Petrocan. There is the realization that foreign ownership is part of the cause of our major economic problems here at the present time.

More of our economy is owned outside of the country than that of any democracy on the face of the earth. We have the Foreign Investment Review Agency, which the federal government put in to exercise some control. The members know what the Ontario Conservatives said about that in the throne speech; I am sure all the members read it. This is what the Conservatives said, when two thirds of our economy is owned outside the country:

"Ontario will therefore continue to press the government of Canada to develop a fiscal strategy more appropriate to the need for renewed economic confidence, investment and growth. In this context we will continue to ask for a streamlining of the administrative procedure of the Foreign Investment Review Agency to ensure that beneficial investment is not prohibited from entering the country." After I was in this House six months I knew what phrases like that mean. What they mean is, "Open up the floodgates to any kind of foreign investment."

Our economic problems are due, largely, to

the outdated philosophy and policies of both the Tories and Liberals and their refusal to intervene in the economy. We can no longer afford that outdated, doctrinaire philosophy. Our deputy leader touched on that just this afternoon. It is not this party any longer that is, or ever was, doctrinaire. Those are the doctrinaire people with the blinkers on and the fixed position.

Whether it is democratic socialism or private enterprise, we have to use whichever policy works best. The present policy of the federal and provincial governments is not working. Short of war, we are not going to solve these economic problems without that fundamental change.

I know the Tories and Liberals are not going to change and so does the public. That is the reason Saskatchewan has had a New Democratic government for the length of time it has. That is the reason Manitoba re-elected the NDP government there with a huge majority. That is why the Gallup poll shows us leaping ahead at the present time. That is why we are going to take British Columbia in the next provincial election, and that is why Ontario is at last due to have an NDP government shortly.

On motion by Mr. Kolyn, the debate was adjourned.

URBAN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to standing order 28, the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) has given notice of dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) and I now recognize the honourable member.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, earlier today I questioned the Minister of Transportation and Communications concerning some expenditures made by the Urban Transportation Development Corp.

I am highly incensed and outraged that the minister shows so much disrespect for this Legislature that he does not even have the common courtesy to be here this evening. Lest anyone think I use this rule frivolously, in the seven years I have been a member of this Legislature this is only the second time I have felt it necessary to bring a minister back after the regular proceedings of the House.

Today I questioned the minister concerning the managerial activities of UTDC. I am shocked, truly shocked, that this government would let

that crown corporation provide executive luxury cars for 26 of its top executives. That crown corporation has approximately 450 employees. By my calculation, a full six per cent of the employed force of that corporation are provided with executive luxury cars at a cost of approximately \$10,900 each.

When I asked the minister if he was going to intervene with the corporation, if he was going to speak with the president to inform him that in these tough economic times we could not go happily and merrily along providing cars for every executive from a consultant all the way up to the president, the minister tried to make light of my comments. He tried to fool around with the question, he tried to say that this information had been known for some time, he did everything except say that he would try to protect the taxpayers of Ontario.

My supplementary question had to do with the fact that this same crown corporation, UTDC, in the past year had purchased four very expensive pieces of property in Vancouver for their highly paid executives. The homes cost as follows: the first home, \$335,000; the second home, \$252,000; the third home, \$200,000; and a home purchased two weeks ago, a further \$250,000.

I brought my concerns to the attention of the president of this crown corporation. He has given me several pieces of information. Most of it conflicts with what he had already said and what he has put in writing to me. Back on January 4, 1981, he told me the corporation had purchased three homes in Vancouver and would be entering into equity-sharing arrangements on each property with three senior project officers. On January 27 he told me something completely different. He told me UTDC has purchased these homes, it has paid cash for them and there are no mortgages in existence.

The houses are rented to the employees at fair market price. The current figure for fair market price, as quoted to me by Mr. Foley, is eight per cent of the value of the home. I was informed today by Mr. Foley's executive assistant that on the \$335,000 home, rent of \$871 a month is being paid. According to Mr. Foley's figures in his letter of January 27 the rent should be \$2,400. The figures are the same for the rest of the homes. We are not getting eight per cent of the value of the homes; we are getting in the neighbourhood of three per cent.

I brought this to the attention of the Minister

of Transportation and Communications. I want to know why we are providing luxury accommodation at a very cheap rate to highly paid executives when all across Ontario people cannot keep their homes, cannot keep their farms and are closing down their small businesses.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Mancini: The fact that he is not here this evening is an outrage. It is an outrage to this Legislature, it is an outrage to the taxpayers of Ontario, and that minister should be relieved of his responsibilities.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Ontario

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 10

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Friday, March 19, 1982

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Friday, March 19, 1982

The House met at 10:01 a.m.

Prayers.

ARGOSY INVESTIGATION

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege to alert this House to a very important anniversary that falls on this date of March 19.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The first anniversary of a great victory!

Mr. Bradley: I know March 19 is very important to many people on the opposite side, and I thought it would be wise to alert us all to this particular anniversary.

As members will recall, it was exactly two years ago, on March 19, 1980, that the Argosy collapse took place, when Argosy Financial Group of Canada Ltd. and Argosy Investments Ltd. were placed into receivership. This was an event of considerable magnitude, Mr. Speaker, and I know you will recall it involved approximately 1,600 investors and upwards of \$30 million.

At the time, the then Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, now the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea), assured the investors in the following terms—I am talking of two years ago, and I quote:

"I can assure you an active investigation was being conducted into the affairs of Argosy by the Ontario Securities Commission some time prior to the announced collapse of Argosy because of their concern about its financial health. This investigation is still continuing, and I am sure that when it is concluded you will see what positive action has taken place."

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. With all respect, that is hardly a point of privilege.

Mr. Bradley: I just wanted to put a little background into the point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Will the member identify his point of privilege immediately?

Mr. Bradley: Yes, Mr. Speaker. A year later, during the campaign, the Premier (Mr. Davis) avoided commenting on the Argosy matter, pointing to the OSC and Ontario Provincial Police investigation, but here is the point: There has been no report on these investigations,

which have gone on now for two years. The only thing the government has done in this matter is to block an investigation of the Argosy collapse by the standing committee on administration of justice.

Mr. Speaker, I appeal to you, as the presiding officer of the highest court in this province, to use your good offices to press for some remedy for the Argosy investors.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have heard your point of privilege.

ELECTRONIC HANSARD

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding, I wish to inform all members that I have had an opportunity to look into the question raised by the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) concerning the possible introduction of an electronic Hansard.

I am advised that at a joint meeting of the standing committee on procedural affairs and the standing committee on members' services held on December 4, 1980, a recommendation was made. I am further advised that the committee reported to the House on December 4, 1980, but that this matter was never adopted. I trust that may clear up any questions in the minds of the members.

SPEAKER'S PROCESSION

Mr. Speaker: I also wish to inform all members at this point that, commencing on March 29, the Speaker's procession will be implemented starting at approximately 1:55 p.m. I might say this is being implemented at the request of a number of members and as a result of a meeting I had with the members of the standing committee on procedural affairs.

DREDGING CASE

Mr. Conway: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I refer to a matter that was first raised in this House almost five years ago.

As all members will recall, in 1977 the Premier appointed Mr. Campbell Grant to investigate and report on matters arising from certain disclosures from the diary of Mr. Harold McNamara during the famous dredging trial. The Premier promised this House on July 8, 1977, that he would make this report available as

soon as he could, having regard to the court cases being heard at that time. I wish to inform this House that not only has Mr. McNamara exhausted all his appeals but also he has already been released from prison.

This matter has been raised at least seven times in this Legislature, most recently on May 8, 1981, and on May 25, 1981, the Premier was asked in this House to produce the report of Mr. Grant; in each instance the Premier replied that he would consult with the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry). We have not yet heard from either the Premier or the Attorney General on this matter of importance, at least for this caucus.

On January 28, 1982, the Liberal Justice critic, my colleague the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt), wrote an open letter to the Premier, requesting him to table Mr. Grant's report. The Premier has not yet replied to this letter.

I know that we have some difficulty in terms of time lines, Mr. Speaker, and I simply draw to your attention that it has now been almost five years since the commitment was given by the government, through the Premier, that Mr. Campbell Grant's report on that matter would be made available. I call upon you, sir, to use your good offices to bring about its release at the very earliest opportunity.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

SECURITY OF LEGISLATURE

Mr. Spensieri: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: In the light of the tragic events of yesterday at Osgoode Hall courtroom, the Board of Internal Economy may wish to review the security provisions of the Legislative Assembly. Having had personal knowledge of and acquaintance with the eminent counsel involved in yesterday's shootings, we feel that matters of this nature tend to drift from one's awareness until they are called back by tragic occurrences such as these.

As members know, this matter has been raised several times over the years, generally after the occurrence of some tragic and critical event. Perhaps now is the time for a comprehensive review of public access and security matters to be undertaken under your direction, Mr. Speaker, with specific recommendations placed for the board's consideration especially in so far as security measures related to this assembly.

10:10 a.m.

Mr. McClellan: On the same point, Mr.

Speaker: I want to express profound caution that we not be stampeded into tightening up security measures at the buildings here because of the tragedy that took place in another place in the city.

I, for one, and I am speaking for myself, do not want to see a tightening up of security measures at the Legislative Assembly here. I think members of the public have a right to come and see their MPPs unimpeded by the apparatus of search and other electronic surveillance devices. I simply wanted to make that clear on my own behalf.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of privilege: Lest anyone think this particular party or anyone in this party wishes to impede or try to make difficult the opportunity for the general public to come in and view the proceedings of this House, that is not what the member for Yorkview (Mr. Spensieri) has said.

Sir, you know that when you are boarding an airplane or when you are going through different types of security checks, that can be done without any type of offensive action to the individual who has to be checked. I am sure that if we exercise good judgement, we can improve our security here without offending the general public.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I want to add briefly to the discussion here today. My concern is that if there is to be a review of security, it be done in a manner that allows all members of the House to have at least access to the information, if not participation in the discussion itself.

I am concerned that this be done with a great deal of sensitivity. As the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) pointed out, many of us feel that the members of the public have the right to have access to the building and to their MPPs at most reasonable hours. We are aware that, unfortunately, there is a need throughout the world to increase some kind of security, but we are very sensitive to the fact that in a building like a parliament there are special needs.

It is my request that if you do intend to proceed with matters that have been looked at previously, it be done in one of the committees, either the standing committee on members' services or perhaps the standing committee on procedural affairs but in a venue where the members themselves have access to the committee and where the discussion can be carried on with some sensitivity and reflecting not just the security needs but also the parliamentary needs of this building.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

IMPORT REPLACEMENT

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce today that Ontario is embarking on a co-operative effort with the province of Manitoba, the other eight provinces, the two territories and the federal government to increase the Canadian share of six categories of goods purchased by our governments and public institutions.

This, as honourable members may recall, is in line with our objectives announced a year and a half ago by my predecessor to undertake a program of intergovernmental co-operation aimed at replacing import products in a variety of sectors.

Our first goal, in which Ontario played a lead role, was the very successful \$1.2-billion-a-year health care products sector replacement program. Honourable members will be pleased to learn that the national results of that initiative have been much better than were anticipated. An independent and audited study, completed just recently, indicated that the health care sector in Ontario is expected to expand its investments by at least \$55 million, helping to create some 600 new jobs in this province.

While work on the health care sector was under way, my ministry's domestic marketing section was working on studies in six other sectors that show promise of immediate returns in terms of import replacement. These studies show that of the \$2.2 billion worth of government purchases of furniture and fixtures, appliances, laboratory and scientific equipment, sporting goods, nonprinted educational supplies and material, and audio-visual equipment, \$1.5 billion is made up of imported products.

Our goal is similar to that of the health care program: to achieve a 10 per cent reduction this year of those imports by replacing them with Canadian goods of comparable price and quality. Success in achieving this result will mean some \$150 million in new orders for Canadian manufacturers and at least 1,200 new jobs for Canadians.

Just as Ontario played the lead role in health care import replacement, this time Manitoba will be the lead province in the institutional import replacement program. At this moment my counterpart in the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, the Honourable Muriel Smith, is announcing the details of the new program, which has three main elements.

The first will be the launching of a major

awareness program in which purchasing agents in all government institutions will be informed of the import replacement effort and the importance of buying Canadian-made products.

The second will be a systematic effort to provide purchasing agents with information on Canadian sources for products in those six major sectors.

The third will be a major trade show and exhibition in Winnipeg this fall at which purchasing agents from all participating governments will display imported products for which they would like Canadian sources. This approach worked extremely well for the health care sector, and I certainly expect success in this new program.

I wish to emphasize the importance we attach to this import replacement initiative. At a time when the country is undergoing a seemingly unending number of economic shocks, it is encouraging to see such projects being tackled, in a pragmatic way, by all of our governments working in a co-operative way. Such federal and provincial co-operation will assist especially the many small and medium-sized firms across the country to make corporate decisions to expand and accelerate their growth opportunities.

We are happy to be playing this role as an advocate and supporter of an initiative which promotes real benefits for Ontarians and all Canadians and creates jobs in the process.

Mr. Speaker: I ask the co-operation of all members, please, to limit their private conversations. There seems to be a background buzz that makes it very difficult to hear what is going on.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ASSISTANCE TO HOME OWNERS

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. On April 12, Robert and Lucy Waterhouse of Garnet, Ontario, will lose their combination home and small business because the interest rate of their mortgage has jumped from 11 per cent to 21.25 per cent. Even though the credit union that holds the mortgage has offered to roll back the interest rate to 17.25 per cent, the payments are still too high for the Waterhouses to make ends meet. Is there not something the government of this province can do to help the Waterhouses?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I cannot respond in the particular but I will be glad to have an agency of the government, probably the Ontario Development Corp., look at the prob-

lems of the Waterhouses to see whether they qualify in any sense at all. I sense that if they are a retail establishment, they will not. The problems of the retail sector are extremely difficult right now; I have not seen them worse for some time. I share with my colleague not only a name but also a concern.

We were rather impressed to read the truth from Ottawa yesterday, when Mr. Kaplan commented on the political disaster of the federal budget. Part of that disaster has been to put tremendous pressure on interest rates. The honourable member well knows that interest rates are set by the federal government, not by the province; so I find it rather interesting that he, as a Liberal, would be asking me, a Conservative, that question.

Mr. G. I. Miller: I point out to the Treasurer that this party came up with a program to assist small businesses and home owners when there was a minority government. We suggested that it be implemented but because of the election on March 19, one year ago today, it was not carried out.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. G. I. Miller: I point out to the Treasurer that many other provinces have assistance programs. Does the government not realize that in one blow the Waterhouses will lose not only their home but also their business and, consequently, their jobs? Is there not something this government can do to assist, besides blaming the feds?

10:20 a.m.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Again, the member knows we have done quite a few things but, in my opinion, the most important function of government is to create an atmosphere of confidence in both the consumer and business communities. Whether or not the member believes it, we have seen the lowest levels of confidence for a long time because the average Canadian citizen really does not believe anyone in Ottawa is running the store.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, does the minister not realize that he could create, or at least attempt to create, an atmosphere of confidence in Ontario by introducing an interest rate relief program or a mortgage moratorium?

Is he not aware that in the example we brought forward yesterday with regard to the houses in Chatham, many of the houses being repossessed are being offered for resale at a lower rate of mortgage interest than was being

paid by the people who are having their homes repossessed? If that is happening there, surely the government can offer interest rate relief.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It is easy to talk, of course, Mr. Speaker. I sense that the honourable member sitting on that side of the House rather enjoys the difficulties of the people he talks about each day. He finds it rather fun to stand up and tell this government it is responsible for the situation. He knows full well we have asked the federal government to implement policies. All 10 provinces asked them to implement policies.

If my friend would consider the total number of dollars out there and the interest rate subsidies he talks about and then look at the size of the provincial Treasury, which this year will receive \$300 million less from the federal government than last year, he would discover that the pressures on me are very real.

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, I have a similar problem. Mr. Calder is the owner of a printing business in Mount Forest. To cut down on the expenses of his business, he moved his printing equipment into the basement of his home. Now the mortgage on his home has come due. He has applied at 40 different places for a mortgage, with negative results. He has more than 60 per cent equity in his home and business. Is there not something this government can do to help the Calders? I will send some further facts over to the Treasurer.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I am rather intrigued to watch the Liberals using the techniques the New Democratic Party has used for years. They are using a case-by-case approach. It is very fine to use a case-by-case approach to get some degree of sympathy at home—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Grey has asked a question of the Treasurer. Please allow the Treasurer to respond.

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: The Treasurer was talking while I was asking the question. I think it might be only fair that I repeat the question. I do not think he heard it.

Mr. Speaker: I think the Treasurer heard your question. He has so indicated.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I challenge both opposition parties to join with Ontario and the other provinces and support the 40 mea-

sures we gave to the federal government to stimulate the economy of this country, to help increase confidence—

Mr. J. A. Reed: Blame the feds.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Why don't we get together? Are the opposition parties afraid to support the measures we brought forward? Are they not worthy of support? We asked for lower interest rates and for support for small business. Are they with us or against us?

ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. I have a constituent, Mr. Robert Gibbs, a hog farmer from Dunvegan, who has been farming for 10 years. When he first started farming, he carried a debt of \$6,000. Now he owes the bank \$90,000. The rate of interest he must pay rose from 12 per cent in 1979 to 25.25 per cent in 1981. He ended up paying \$2,000 a month in interest. The banks have called in his loan and now hold all his hogs, though they are allowing him to raise them. Mr. Gibbs does not know whether he can hold out until the end of 1982.

Can the Treasurer tell me what provincial government program exists to help Mr. Gibbs?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, as I interpret it, the question relates to hog raising. Does the honourable member realize we made \$60 million available for the assistance of farmers?

Mr. Nixon: It is so bound up in red tape you can't get it.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It is not bound up in red tape. I want to say to the honourable member, I do not know whether he has qualified—have you, Robert?

Mr. Nixon: I wouldn't bother applying if you were running it.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We are not running it; the banks and the agricultural representatives are, and the accountants.

Just yesterday I talked to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, along with the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell). Does the member realize that program was designed with their co-operation and that the OFA worked along with the government of Ontario and the banks to get a plan that would deal with the kinds of problems he is talking about?

Mr. Nixon: We are the principal critics of the plan. Because of our criticism the application form had to be withdrawn and reprinted.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I worry about that party. The leader has missed two days this week.

Ms. Copps: The leader of the government party was missing.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The honourable member knows where my leader is and that he is ill. He is not like her leader.

I want to point out that this party is starting to worry about the opposition party. They are slipping so fast with their new leader that the third party is the real threat.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Other members will have an opportunity to ask a question at the proper time. I have recognized the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) with a supplementary.

Mr. Boudria: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to point out that I asked this question on December 10, 1981. At that time I mentioned that of 142 hog producers in my area three years ago, only 25 remained and 20 of these were producing under contract only. Mr. Gibbs was one of those 25. What specifically can this government offer to Mr. Gibbs to help him out during these hard times?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, now that the member is getting into specific agricultural programs, I am going to redirect his question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member's constituent Mr. Gibbs is willing, I will be happy to have him meet the local agricultural representative for the county to discuss with him the farm adjustment assistance program to see whether there is some possible assistance there for his operation.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order first, and then I have a question. My point of order is that the Treasurer has misled the House. The banks do not make the decision. The agricultural representatives and the banks advise the farmers and if they say no, then it is the appeal board's decision.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sure the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) did not mean to use the word he did use, and I ask him to withdraw it, please.

Mr. MacDonald: I just want clarification from the Treasurer. He said the banks make the decision. Therefore, he has misled the House with misinformation.

Mr. Speaker: I ask you to withdraw that word, please.

Mr. MacDonald: I will withdraw it, but it is on the record that he has said the banks make the decision; and the banks do not make the decision.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a supplementary?

Mr. MacDonald: Yes. In view of all of the bragging about what this program is doing, is the Treasurer aware that as of the first week of March 1982, out of all the 87,000 farmers in the province, only 46 had been given some assistance for a total of \$300,000, or a third of \$1 million, of the \$60 million promised? Is the pipeline that is eventually going to make this program effective so clogged up that only 46 got through it? Is the Treasurer aware of that?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I do not have the statistics. The OFA made certain suggestions to the minister a few days ago. He loosened the criteria. We are at least flexible enough to do that.

I will go back into Hansard for the words that caused this point of order. If I have said the banks run the program, then I am wrong. If I have said those words, I do not want to leave them on the record. If they are there, I quite accept the fact, but I did not mean to leave that impression. I was responding very quickly to a point.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, a constituent in my riding who was also trying to get involved in the production of pork for the Ontario market is having a very difficult time getting into the business. He is a young farmer, 25 years old. He has recently tried to take over the operation. He works full-time off the farm. He has introduced some new methods to the farm, which has been left to his widowed mother by the recent death of his father. He wants to take over the farm; he cannot get assistance from the banks. He does not know at this point whether he is even going to be able to get enough feed to feed his hogs in the next two or three months.

10:30 a.m.

How much longer must this young farmer wait to receive some provincial assistance so that he can own his own farm and carry on production without having the bank request his widowed mother to supply it with a guarantee?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, again we are going to the case-by-case approach, and again before I answer the question I throw back the need for the member's—

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The members opposite are here, whether they like it or not, for at least three more years as opposition. Whether they replace us at the end of three years is the luck of the Irish or whatever. The fact remains we do have serious economic problems in this province, and it would be nice once in a while to see the opposition parties join with us and accept the fact that Ontario has made a series of constructive suggestions to help the economy.

To get back to this problem, I cannot judge a case from here; I am not sure the member can judge the case. I have got some in my riding. We have set up a technique for it. We have said in the throne speech there will be more help for young farmers, and we are going to deliver.

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question for the Treasurer. Is the Treasurer aware of the Ministry of Labour's alarming statistics that permanent and indefinite layoffs have increased in the last year by 47.2 per cent? Is he aware that Chrysler has announced in Windsor that it will close the Windsor spring plant on September 15, 1982? I thought I would give the Treasurer plenty of lead time. What action is he going to take to avoid the closure of that plant?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, there is no industry I enjoy watching more, because of natural interest, than the automobile industry; and I have had very little to be joyous about of late, whether it be the sales of units in North America or whether it be the jobs of workers. I understand Chrysler in Windsor itself has actually had more people at work this year than it had a year ago, if I am not wrong. It seems to me that the Windsor assembly plant for Chrysler is one of the few plants in North America that has actually been scheduling overtime, has it not?

The fact remains that we have suggested, and I think it has been well received by all segments of the automotive scheme of things, that we have a good reason to require Canadian content. Whether they are springs, whether they are differential housings, whether they are trans axles, whether they are engines, whether they are body stampings, or whether it is assembly, I think we as a nation have not only the right to expect, but the market to justify, 85 per cent Canadian content value added.

We have made that suggestion to Ottawa, but we do not expect it to happen overnight. I understand Mr. Lumley is in Japan right now and is, I believe, negotiating from a stronger

stance than he did before. I do believe the meetings in Ottawa have been heard to a degree. But let us again join together and say that is in the interests of Canadian workers and it is in the interests of the Canadian economy, not just Ontario but the Canadian economy.

Mr. Foulds: Is the minister prepared to say that Ontario will take the stand that not only should Japanese imports have 85 per cent Canadian content, but the Big Three assembly in Ontario should have 85 per cent Canadian content, and we should aim for 100 per cent Canadian content? Is he aware that more than 200 parts used at present could be sourced from the plant at Windsor but are being imported by Chrysler from Mexico and the United States?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Obviously I am not aware.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer has made a number of suggestions to Ottawa, not only when his Premier went to Ottawa but also in the throne speech, regarding the auto industry, particularly in the area of Canadian content, as he has repeated this morning. If this matter is resolved, what initiatives is Ontario prepared to take to ensure that our parts industry is sufficiently modernized to be able to fill the very ambitious program that the Treasurer and the Premier (Mr. Davis) have suggested? What initiatives are they prepared to take to help the industry?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The member speaks as if we have never taken any. We have pointed out one of the most important ingredients in keeping a competitive parts industry, apart from the general productivity costs which, unfortunately, in Canada are getting worse vis-à-vis the United States. That, by the way, should be of concern to the member, to me, and to all Canadian workers because Canadian wage rates in the auto industry are going up faster than they are in the American auto industry. Productivity rates are not rising as quickly as they should. Therefore, even the advantage of an 82-cent dollar is being lost quite rapidly.

What have we done? There was no sector that received more direct assistance than the auto parts sector through the employment development fund. We took a lot of abuse day after day for giving assistance to any number of plants such as Ford, TRW Canada, Hayes-Dana or Eaton Yale. Whenever we did something, someone over there found some reason to say it was a giveaway, a gift, a deal that was not needed. They said Volkswagen would have come anyway. We have negotiated hard with Volkswagen.

I would say had it not been for the then Minister of Industry and Tourism, (Mr. Grossman) they would not be in this province. The plant would not be in this province at all, it would be in another province.

Mr. Wrye: Windsor is still in the province. It would have been there, it wouldn't have been in Quebec. The Treasurer knows that.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It would have been in Ohio; that is where it would have been.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Those are the facts. The member does not want to look at that. The incredulity on his face makes me realize that the member does not even understand where the competition is.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Incredulity is the word.

Mr. Bradley: Don't be so condescending.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Don't talk to me about condescending. Look at your own benches.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, back to the spring plant. Is the minister aware that Chrysler Canada's Canadian value added or Canadian content is only 50 per cent?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They are the most condescending bunch of nitwits I have ever seen.

Mr. Cooke: I wonder if the Minister of Education would shut up.

What is the Treasurer prepared to do to stop the closure of this spring plant, which would lower the Canadian content for Chrysler Canada below 50 per cent? Does he not agree that it is about time that an auto parts crown corporation be established in this province? One of its mandates would be to negotiate not only with the Japanese, but with the Big Three here in North America to bring their Canadian content up to at least 85 per cent, preferably 100 per cent. That is the United Auto Workers' position.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The percentage by Chrysler or Ford, in terms of the 65 per cent requirement or thereabouts that was required under the auto trade pact of 1965, obviously has not been kept. I understand the federal government has for the last while waived the requirements in the interest of survival. If the member wants that company to survive at all in Canada, the member and I have to be realistic for a while. Chrysler simply has not had the resources to do some of the things it should do. I would hope

that as a condition for our federal government's relatively generous support of Chrysler we will see that increase as time goes on and compliance again.

Right now with Chrysler, whether we like it or not, survival is the issue. I think the member understands that, does he not?

Mr. Foulds: So is the survival of our economy.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The survival of our economy has to keep us realistic, my friend, not dwelling up in the clouds and saying crown corporations can do it. Look at British Leyland. How well has it done since it took over the industry?

Mr. Cooke: Look at Volkswagen.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Look at Renault; look at Volkswagen.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Surely it is just good common manners to pay attention when somebody else is speaking.

10:40 a.m.

EQUAL PAY

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. In view of the federal human rights decision which finally forced the federal Treasury Board to agree to pay equal pay for work of equal value to female employees and male employees in the categories, for example, of watchman 2 and warehouse labourer, why does the minister continue to tolerate in the Ontario civil service the blatant discrimination that continues to exist between jobs of equal value and equal pay?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, there has been a great deal said on that subject in the media in the past few days, including a conference held in Toronto this week. There have also been a couple of speeches given by Mr. Caccia and Ms. Erola on this particular matter.

As far as I am concerned, my ministry is moving to advancing proposals to strengthen our equal pay laws. I do not want to mislead anyone. I do not think that anyone's interest is served by bringing forward proposals which are impractical or unenforceable. Like my predecessor, I do have some problems with the notion or concept of universal equal pay legislation. However, there are certain revisions to the existing sections that we should be taking a look at. I hope to be coming forward in this House in the next few weeks with some proposed changes.

Mr. Foulds: Could the minister tell us if those proposed changes specifically eliminate the discrimination in the Ontario civil service that exists, for example, between a laundry worker 2, which is largely female—72 per cent—and a clerk 2, which is largely male—82 per cent—in which the difference in wages for jobs of equal value—I think this is pretty well agreed—is more than \$2,000 a year?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: The difficulty is in assessing the jobs. That is what we are going to try to address. We are going to try to look at the four comparative tests, which are skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions. We are going to see if they can be looked at in a collective manner rather than individually. We are studying that right now. I am having a meeting with Ms. Lynne Gordon on Wednesday of this coming week. We are optimistic that we can do something of a practical nature.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, if I heard the minister correctly, I believe he said such legislation may be impractical or unenforceable. Does the minister think the women of Ontario, who on average are earning 62 cents for every \$1 earned by a man in this province, believe that such legislation would be impractical?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I do not think that at all.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware that when the union attempted to negotiate job evaluation procedures in order to bring in equal pay for work of equal value, in spite of the present legislation the government took the union to court on this issue? The ruling was that job evaluation was not part of the collective bargaining process for Ontario civil servants.

In view of that, will the minister see that that law is changed so that job evaluation can be part of the collective bargaining process, and will he bring in a proper job evaluation procedure in the changes to the equal pay law he has forecast? These changes are still not unveiled yet and we are waiting to hear what they are.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could answer that question by expanding a bit on my answer to my colleague across the floor. I do have a real concern for the circumstances in Ontario. I think we do have to make some changes. There are some circumstances that are genuinely unfair to women in this province, and there is a great deal that has to be done. Certainly one of my objectives is to try to work towards a strengthening of our current equal pay laws.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Labour has the answer to a previously asked question.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) raised a question concerning the strike at Union of Canada Life Insurance, and I undertook to provide a report this morning.

A mediator was appointed last September and held a number of meetings with the parties which were unsuccessful. The director of the conciliation and mediation services branch of my ministry then travelled to Ottawa to meet with the parties to see if the ministry could be of further assistance. However, and regrettably, the positions of the two parties were so widely separated that further mediation did not appear to be a productive course of action. My ministry has continued to monitor the situation, and I am now advised that the union has brought a complaint of bad faith bargaining under the Labour Relations Act. In other words, we have moved from mediation to litigation.

Since the issue is now in the process of litigation, it would be inappropriate to comment on the facts of the case or the particular matters the member raised yesterday. However, I want to assure the member that my ministry is monitoring the case carefully and will be ready at a moment's notice to undertake further mediation if that is required.

ASSISTANCE TO HOME OWNERS

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. Mr. Ron Tonkin of Belle River has been employed as a terminal manager for a transport company in Chatham. He has been unemployed for almost a year now. The interest payments on his home rose from \$627 a month to \$950, and because he could not meet these payments, the trust company foreclosed on his home. Within a few months he will have to move out.

Is there nothing the Treasurer can bring in in Ontario to assist people in these conditions?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, that question is one of a series. I have answered that kind of question at least twice today.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, given the fact that the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan both announced this morning that they will be including interest relief programs in their budgets, could the Treasurer indicate what advice I can give to a constituent of mine, Mr. Singh, who was laid off from Budd Canada in November 1981 and who has searched diligently in the meantime for a job—he has been unable to get

one—and has also just been advised that his rent is going to go up 32 per cent because the building has been refinanced?

Is there nothing the Treasurer can do, either now or within the coming budget? Can he give us any kind of commitment as to what advice I can give to this constituent of mine?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable member knows, I will be bringing out a budget before too long. Obviously I will have the chance to respond.

It happens that in at least one of the provinces the member named today an election is imminent, and in the second one it is probable. Both had relatively large increases.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

ASSISTANCE TO DISABLED PERSONS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have a question for the Treasurer as well, Mr. Speaker. On December 7 the federal Minister of National Health and Welfare indicated her intention to seek provincial participation in an increase of Canada pension plan payments to severely disabled people, people who receive less than single senior citizens—in fact, over 50 per cent of whom are below any poverty line one could mention.

Why then has the Treasurer indicated to the press that he will not go along with this proposal, thereby effectively vetoing these increases for disabled people not just in Ontario, but in every province across Canada except Quebec, which already has a more generous scheme? Why is he condemning these people to continue to supplement their income through welfare after they have already paid into the national pension scheme?

10:50 a.m.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, the question is not whether the assistance should be given to the disabled but whether the Canada pension plan is the proper vehicle. The Canada pension plan is a pension plan with benefits supposedly to be paid for out of premiums. At the present time, the 3.6 per cent that is levied does not cover more than about 40 per cent of the cost of the pension benefits that are accruing or being paid.

There are proper and appropriate ways to deal with the problems of the disabled without trying to wrap them into a pension plan that was designed to give a pension benefit for people who have stayed in the work force.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is it not ludicrous and shameful to make the argument that this move to a basic subsistence income of a maximum of \$5,717 a year for these severely disabled individuals must be delayed until negotiations on some other alternatives are put into place, when it is understood that the additional incremental cost of this proposal to CPP will be a quarter of one per cent by the year 2050?

These are the poorest people in our nation. Will the Treasurer not act immediately? He will have public support if he would just say that for now these increases are added to CPP while we work out some other formula, if that is going to be the case, for providing this kind of income assistance to people in the future.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The member is trying to tie two things together that should not be tied together. I have in no way tried to judge the merits of the benefits for the people who are disabled. The question is whether a funded pension plan should be used to do it. Ontario has done more work as the lead province on Canada pension in the last year than all the other provinces in Canada put together, and we have, in fact, got consensus from most of the provinces on the points of view we are bringing forward.

We are in no way precluding enrichment of benefits for people who are disabled; we are simply saying the Canada pension plan does not appear to be the vehicle.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer is telling us it is reasonable under these circumstances to use welfare as the alternative. Could he tell us if he thinks it is also reasonable for a single recipient of welfare to try to make ends meet with \$218 a month?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, that is a non sequitur.

ASTRA/RE-MOR

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney General in regard to Re-Mor, which I know he will remember.

During the provincial election campaign which ended on this date last year, the Premier (Mr. Davis) promised Frank and Dorothy Parr, an elderly couple who reside at 126 Rykert Street in St. Catharines and who lost \$17,000 in the Re-Mor fiasco, he would do everything possible to expedite the court process associated with the promised test case on behalf of the Re-Mor victims.

Since these senior citizens who lost their life

savings, and many others in the same predicament, appear to be not very much closer to resolving this matter a year later despite the promise, what is the Attorney General prepared to do today to ensure that they receive the justice that the Premier promised during the campaign?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding from reviewing this matter relatively recently with the director of the civil law division of the Ministry of the Attorney General that the stated case, the agreed-to litigation, was moving along at a rate that was acceptable to the lawyers representing the claimants in this matter; and I expect a resolution in the not too distant future.

If the member for St. Catharines is truly concerned about this issue—and I am prepared to concede that he is concerned about the plight of the people who have lost these investments—I would urge him, as I urged the former leader—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: From the beginning, we have indicated we would be prepared to enter into settlement negotiations, but we have been trying without success to bring the federal government to the table to discuss this. They have refused to discuss it whatsoever, and any cursory examination of the circumstances surrounding the issuance of the federal charter to Astra Trust would indicate that of course the basic responsibility does lie there. I am not just engaging in a futile exercise of fed-bashing. We live in the real world of politics and the reality of the world of politics is—

Mr. Bradley: These are real people and don't forget it. They are not just statistics.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: If the member was really concerned, I would like to—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would ask the member for St. Catharines to please restrain himself and give the Attorney General an opportunity to reply.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: In my reply, I would like to withdraw something I said earlier because I really do not think the member is that concerned. I think he is much more concerned with playing partisan politics over this issue than really helping these people, and he knows that.

Mr. Bradley: I will not comment on that, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the Premier stated in St. Catharines that if the Ontario government were found negligent or liable the people affected would be reimbursed, and in

view of the fact that it appears the only people to benefit from this promise to this point are those in the legal profession, because the minister says that the lawyers are pleased with the rate of progress, is the minister prepared to stand by this promise and the other promise to expedite the court case and not delay it as it has been delayed?

Or are the people to believe the Canadian Press story of March 12, 1981, which appeared in the *St. Catharines Standard* and stated: "Government lawyer Thomas Wickett denied any knowledge of Davis' statement on compensation and suggested if the Premier made such a promise, he did so for political reasons."? Is the minister going to play politics with it? Is he going to quit blaming the feds and is he going to do something to expedite the case and bring about justice?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: If the member was truly concerned and was not playing cellar partisan politics, he would accept an invitation that I am prepared to extend to his leader because I do not really believe for one moment that he cares for anything other than playing petty politics with this issue.

Interjections.

Mr. Sweeney: He is imputing motives.

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is deteriorating into a debate.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the Attorney General please withdraw that remark imputing the motives of the member.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I do not see anything that should be withdrawn, but if you are requesting me to withdraw it, Mr. Speaker, then because of my enormous respect for you I withdraw it, but I do not want anybody to misunderstand that my respect for you has anything to do with respect I do not have for the people across the aisle.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. I would just point out to all honourable members that the respect the Attorney General has shown for the Speaker is indeed the respect for this chamber.

CANADIAN PACIFIC TRAIN DERAILMENT

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, I have a belated question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications arising out of the rail incident in Orillia several weeks ago. Since the minister's provincial dangerous goods legislation has been

piggybacked on the federal legislation or regulations, can he tell the House what he has done personally to pressure the federal transport officials to get their regulations in place as soon as possible, especially in view of the fact that we may not get them for another six to eight months?

Second, can he tell us what he will do in the meantime to protect the lives and security of Ontario residents? Third, will he press for an open, public inquiry of the whole incident if the feds should fail to do so?

11 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I understand some, but not all, of the member's question. I will try to answer part of it. Our legislation on the transportation of dangerous goods goes hand-in-hand with the federal legislation as it relates to the movement of specified dangerous commodities on the highway system. It does not piggyback, as the member suggested, on the federal regulations regarding dangerous goods on the railroads. I do not know if that is what the member said, but it sounded that way to me.

I am as concerned as anyone that we do not yet have the federal regulations. It has been a long and protracted process which has been going on for a number of years. There have been a number of ministers' conferences. The ministers of transportation for all 10 provinces meet once or twice a year with the federal minister. Each year the provincial ministers have requested uniform federal regulations we can all implement within our respective provinces so we have uniformity for goods being transported across our borders. I think the member would agree that is necessary.

I regret as much as him the delay we have had in getting those regulations. They are very complex. There has been a great deal of consultation with industries of all types, not only the trucking industry but the shipping and manufacturing industries as well.

Part of the member's question was, what have I done? I met a week ago tonight with the federal Minister of Transport, Mr. Pepin, and his officials between 6:30 p.m. and about 10 o'clock at night. I think that is dedication. He was on his way back from a meeting in Regina, his jet broke down in Thunder Bay and he had to change to another plane. We had an excellent meeting and discussed many topics, as we do when we meet. I again expressed our anxiety to get on with the implementation of the dangerous goods legislation as it relates to the provincial highway system.

We did not get into the rail matter at that meeting as there were many items on the agenda. As the member knows, the Canadian Transport Commission will be investigating that matter. I would not like to comment at this time on whether there is a necessity for a public inquiry. My colleague the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) has been fully responsible for dealing with that incident. I am sure if he feels there is any need for a public inquiry after his investigation, he will ask for it.

Mr. Samis: In view of the federal foot-dragging and the fact that the provincial legislation will not take effect until those regulations come into effect, would the minister be prepared to recommend to cabinet that municipalities be given the power to designate truck routes for dangerous goods within their boundaries? Would he also press for the establishment of some form of provincial data bank to assist local police and fire departments in case of a future emergency such as the one that occurred near Orillia?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I have a difficult time trying to connect the rail incident near Orillia with municipalities knowing about truck routes. I am sure the municipalities know the railroad routes through their communities. This matter has been considered. We have had discussions with municipalities. We have a committee of municipal representatives which has worked with the provincial and federal people on the dangerous goods legislation. As an interim measure, I do not think it would be advisable to do what the member suggests.

GO TRANSIT SERVICES

Mr. Cureatz: Mr. Speaker, the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) is going to like this question to the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Now that the minister has the Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority report on his desk, will he indicate to this House when he expects to make it public in terms of the possible extension of GO train service from Pickering to Oshawa?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I did receive the report prepared by the planning and engineering staff of the CN about 10 days ago, reporting on the improvements necessary to extend the GO train service from Pickering easterly to Oshawa, which are very extensive. As we suspected, it shows a requirement for a third rail line, which involves widening bridges and in some cases widening rights of way and

replacing an overpass or two that are not wide enough to carry the third track, so it is an extensive job.

We are reviewing the report at this time. I am preparing a submission I can take forward to my cabinet colleagues in the very near future—I would say within a matter of two or three weeks—with our recommendations on our overall five-year plan for the expansion of GO Transit, not only in the Oshawa corridor but in other corridors as well. Certainly the Oshawa corridor is the major one on our platter at this time.

Mr. Cureatz: In the light of the extensive monetary involvement for the extension, will the minister consider approaching the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development committee for the necessary funding for the extension?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Yes, I will definitely. In fact, I have already warned the Treasurer that this will be coming.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I notice the minister weaseled around the member's request to table the report. Will he try to answer that? Will he table that report from CN so the members can peruse it, and will he give us just a slightly more concrete notion of when we might anticipate his future prospects, the five-year plan, which we all know is going to be dependent upon the next provincial election?

Hon. Mr. Snow: The Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) says she never saw anyone who looked less like a weasel.

Mr. Breaugh: So you are the world's largest weasel.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Also I do not remember the member for Durham East requesting me to table any report. He said he understood I had the report. I do have the report and I will give consideration to tabling it. It is a technical engineering report. It outlines the work that would have to be done on the line alone. I have to take the cost in that report and to that I have to add the expenses of land and the construction of the necessary stations. I also have to add the cost of the additional locomotives and rolling stock that would be necessary.

It is not just a case of taking the CN report and saying that is the whole package, but I will have the package before my cabinet colleagues in the very near future and I will give consideration to tabling the report. Certainly I have one on the corner of my desk. It is so confidential it has been sitting there for the last 10 days.

ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES

Mr. Spensieri: Mr. Speaker, a new question for the Treasurer, now that he has resumed his seat and at least superficially regained his composure.

As the Treasurer chats with Ontario Development Corp. about the Waterhouse case referred to by my colleague, will he also confer with them and indicate to the House what this government can do for two small businessmen in my riding, Messrs. Nesbitt and Watson, who, upon receiving a loan offer from ODC, the very corporation that will rescue the Waterhouses, an offer of over \$100,000 in 1981—quite close to March 19, 1981—proceeded to secure the assets of an American company that had closed down in my riding? They were thereby able to save 30 jobs in a riding recently plagued by some major plant closings and layoffs.

11:10 a.m.

But the reality of March 19 was that ODC has changed its offer, has in fact reneged on its offer, and these gentlemen, after having put out \$225,000 of equity venture capital of their own, now find themselves high and dry. Is there anything that ODC and this government can do, or is ODC a federal responsibility as well?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say it is not, and I redirect the question to the Minister of Industry and Trade Development (Mr. Walker).

Mr. Mancini: He is not here.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Has he gone? Then we will get the facts from him.

Mr. Spensieri: The alleged reason for the ODC's change of heart was that the purchase price of the assets was \$225,000 and was not justified by the value of the business. When the book value of the business turned out to be \$800,000, as the Treasurer will see from the compendium I am about to send him—I believe the Treasurer is familiar with compendiums—what can be more justified than an \$800,000 purchase for the sum of \$225,000? And how secure does this province have to be to lend money, or does it lend only to people who do not need it, as Leacock used to say?

Hon. F. S. Miller: It is interesting, but the great thrust of the leaders' comments in my area, almost every one of them, alleged that we lent money in a profligate way to people who were poor credit risks at places like Bala Bay Inn. I recall it very well.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. I am sure the Minister of Labour is acquainted now with the white paper on workers' compensation, and he knows that his predecessor, the present Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie), in answering a question I asked him on November 10, said he would keep talking to the interested parties and that by January he would review the comments and documents submitted and then discuss the matter with his colleagues in the cabinet.

In view of the fact that in the speech from the throne there is, among other nebulous propositions, a threatening proposition regarding the Workmen's Compensation Board which says that the government will continue to confer with interested parties, can the Minister of Labour tell the House, first, who the interested parties are who have said they still want to talk to the minister and, second, if it is true that his predecessor had completed his consultations with the people who wanted to discuss the white paper report? If there is such a contradiction, can the minister tell us what course of action this government will take vis-à-vis the problems of the injured workers who are dealing with the Workmen's Compensation Board?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure of the contradiction the honourable member is referring to, but the consultative process is still going on as far as the white paper is concerned. In fact, just this morning I received a request to take part in a forum that is being conducted by the trades and labour council or a similar body in Hamilton in early April.

We still have all sorts of requests for organizations to come in and talk to us, both union organizations and management groups, so I do not think there is any contradiction. We are piled up. We have obligations ahead of us, and we plan to honour those obligations.

Mr. Di Santo: The only obligation the minister forgets they have is to the injured workers. Since it has been two and a half years since Professor Weiler was appointed by the minister's predecessor, how long will the process of consultation go on?

In view of the fact that the chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board, Mr. Lincoln Alexander, said in Sault Ste. Marie—and I hope the minister reads the newspapers of his home town—that the present system, from an administrative point of view, is completely unwork-

able, can the minister tell the House if he has any timetable of when the process of consultation will end and if he will be ready to introduce legislation before the end of this session? The injured workers, towards whom he has obligations, are fighting against inflation from a worse position than any other group in our society.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I appreciate and understand what the member is saying. I think the process was slowed down a bit by the change of ministers, and we are trying to expedite that now.

Mr. Foulds: What an admission to make.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: It is not an admission. It is just telling the facts in a forthright manner. We still have people we are scheduled to see. I am still hopeful that the legislation can be introduced this year.

ASSISTANCE TO HOME OWNERS

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. Would he indicate what his government is prepared to do for Mrs. Slusarczyk of Tyndall Avenue, who is forced to sell her home in which she has been living for 20 years because her mortgage is now up for renewal and she will not be able to make the payments on a new mortgage at today's rate?

The Premier was ready to act in 1975, when he assured the people of Ontario during an election campaign that his government would not stand idly by and give up its housing objectives. He was prepared to extend tax relief on mortgage interest costs—

Mr. Speaker: Your question?

Mr. Ruprecht: —higher than 10.25 per cent at that time. The reality of March 19, 1982, is that some Ontarians such as Mrs. Slusarczyk must sell their homes because of these high mortgage rates. This government was once prepared to subsidize. Other provinces have introduced programs to deal with this—

Mr. Speaker: I am waiting for the supplementary.

Mr. Ruprecht: What does the government intend to do about it in 1982?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have said before I am intrigued by the process the Liberals are using this morning. First, they keep their leader in a closet and break a tradition we have had for a long time. The tradition has always been that the leader could designate the deputy leader to ask questions. I wonder if they have lost confidence in their new leader already.

They are keeping him out of the House for the first two questions of the day because he has been such an absolute total loss this first week. They have come back with a series of prepared, written questions, any one of which, they know, the ministries would be glad to deal with directly on a one-to-one basis. They are the kind of constituent problem on which they have always dealt directly with ministers.

Mr. Ruprecht: Supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION IN WORK PLACE

Ms. Bryden: On a point of privilege: I would like to ask why the Minister of Labour has not informed the House that the practice of requiring women at the Block Drug Co. to punch time cards for washroom visits has been discontinued? I would have thought he would have wanted to bring to the attention of the House that his efforts and ours—

Mr. Speaker: That is not a point of privilege.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, you will recall that yesterday after question period I rose under standing order 28(a). I informed the Legislative Assembly at that time that I was dissatisfied with the answer—

Mr. Speaker: The requirements of standing order 28 were complied with and the member spoke last night. I was here. I listened very attentively. There is nothing out of order.

Mr. Mancini: I was not up on a point of order, but a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Your privileges have not been abused in any way.

Mr. Mancini: The Speaker has not heard my argument, but already he knows the answer.

Mr. Speaker: I listened to enough of it.
11:20 a.m.

MOTION

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURAL AFFAIRS

Hon. Mr. Gregory moved that the standing committee on procedural affairs be authorized to adjourn to Aylmer, Ontario, to visit the Ontario Police College on Wednesday, March 31, 1982.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

UFFI REMOVAL ACT

Mr. Swart, seconded by Mr. Philip, moved first reading of Bill 32, An Act to provide for the Removal of Urea Formaldehyde Foam Insulation.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to provide recourse for persons who had their dwellings insulated with urea formaldehyde foam insulation. An expeditious method is provided for obtaining an order for removal of the insulation where health problems exist and for restoring the dwelling to its former state at no cost to the owner, or for reimbursement where the owner had the insulation removed.

GASOLINE TAX INCREASES

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if this is a point of order or a point of privilege. I think a privilege has been abused and that I, as a member, have not had a proper opportunity. I want to draw to the attention of the House that about a year and two weeks ago the tax on a gallon of gasoline in Ontario was 20.7 cents a gallon. Today it is 28.3 cents.

I want it known that gasoline tax went up 40 per cent without anyone in this House having the right to vote on it. I think that is a real privilege taken away from me as an elected member. The 60,000 people in my riding have not had the opportunity, through me, to discuss or vote on the raising of taxes and that is very unfair.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, before I begin my speech I would like to convey my best wishes to the new Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) and also to the leader of the third party. I have always believed that to have good government we must have a strong Her Majesty's loyal opposition.

One of the most important cornerstones of our society is individual freedoms and rights. Collectively, we live in a society that gives us the opportunity to do our own thing provided, of

course, that reasonably acceptable forms of behaviour are recognized and tolerated by other members of the community.

Many people today have become accustomed to doing what they want and expect the state to clean up after them and pay their bills. Our social services are seen by many as a right that is limitless. It is taking a while for people to realize that the well is not bottomless, that we cannot be selfish and that conservator ethics must apply even in this area.

In the 82 years of this century, we have developed miraculous cures for a variety of diseases that have plagued mankind since the beginning of time. As a result, most people have come to rely heavily on the network of the publicly funded institutionalized care that has been supported across North America and Europe.

Now, in a highly regulated and inspected environment, we have the dubious distinction of living longer than our ancestors. When we die it is often from a series of new diseases, some of which are self-inflicted. Some are environmentally caused, and by that I do not mean in the occupational sense but in the larger social context.

On the self-inflicted end of things we are doing quite well. According to 1978 statistics, more than 1,200 Ontarians died of alcohol-related problems and over 1,200 died from suicide and self-inflicted injuries. How many people died as a result of smoking is anyone's guess, but the link between smoking and cancer is becoming more obviously apparent.

Deaths from cancer and from heart disease are on the rise. In 1978, close to 14,000 Ontarians died from cancer and over 22,000 died from heart disease. In 1979, approximately 1,500 people were killed in motor vehicle accidents—which makes me wonder if it is better to be done in by yourself or to wait for natural causes.

The reason I have run through these statistics is to illustrate the kind of problems we as individuals, our society and the health care system faces. If a person wants to smoke three packs of cigarettes a day it is great for tobacco growers, but doctors consider it deadly.

We are paying for our own collective stupidity and carelessness through absenteeism at work, family breakdowns and injured health. The only way in which we can hope to reduce both the human and the institutional costs is through prevention, and prevention entails many things. Good physical and mental health

requires regular exercise, good eating habits, reduced drinking and smoking and a home atmosphere that is loving and supportive.

The throne speech has indicated that the Ministry of Health will be promoting the prevention message to the young people of Ontario, and maybe a little will rub off on their parents. We live in a stressful world and the out-of-shape bodies of most of us are unable to cope with it. Often, we ignore the signals our body is sending us and carry on convinced that nothing will ever happen to us.

At this juncture I would like to express my deepest sympathy to Mrs. Thomas Cossitt and members of her family. Canadians have lost one of our most colourful and dynamic politicians in a tragic and sudden way. It is a sobering reminder to all of us, not just politicians, that we must learn how to survive in the environment we have created. If the environment is bad, it must be adapted to us.

Life-saving assistance is not the sole responsibility of the medical profession. Anyone who wants to can learn first-aid techniques, cardiopulmonary resuscitation or other skills. In the case of heart attacks the first few minutes are crucial. The introduction of special CPR pilot programs on a broad scale will give many heart attack victims a much better chance of survival than they have now. Seattle is often cited as being the model for this type of program. It has the most comprehensive and responsive system in the United States.

More than 200,000 Ontarians are trained in CPR, but for a population of eight million we must do better. Toronto will soon be getting the emergency telephone number 911, which will be an important step in co-ordinating our emergency services and in developing a system whereby laymen have the capability of helping people in those important few minutes following heart attack, not just to save lives but to allow for a full recovery.

Detection of illness and disease often requires sophisticated diagnostic equipment. This government will be taking some positive and concrete steps to combat cancer. The Princess Margaret Hospital will be receiving a nuclear diagnostic system which will have the capacity to diagnose malignant tumours at the earliest stage.

11:30 a.m.

How many times have we heard the litany from the other side of this House attacking our health care system; and how many times have we said we are committed to supporting that

system? Those members know, as well as we do, that health technology is getting more complex and more expensive and yet we are more than willing to support our doctors in their efforts to reduce cancer in Ontario.

This preventive approach will also cover the people driving our ambulances. Almost all of Ontario's certified ambulance service attendants have achieved emergency medical care attendant, or EMCA, status. This means they are familiar with such things as cardiopulmonary resuscitation, advanced first aid, clinical hospital experience and emergency patient care as well as having a background in the basic health sciences such as anatomy and physiology.

With this training as a base, ambulance attendants who graduate from a special six-week college course will be certified to perform basic paramedic services to assist critically injured victims. Up until this point, medical doctors were the only people allowed to administer these services. Now, the physicians at base hospitals will be able to delegate instructions and monitor the services done by the paramedics. According to the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman), the first group of paramedics will be working in the ambulance system by the fall.

Specialty trained attendants are also aboard our air ambulances flying across the province. At present, northern Ontario is served by four jet-powered aircraft that have cruising speeds ranging from 115 to 405 miles per hour. In an emergency, both speed and safety are crucial factors for the aircraft and the people working in them. In the short space of two years, we have taken major steps to expand the services and make available the ambulances to all parts of the province. Again, this serves as an example of the vitality of Ontario's health care system and the type of flexibility that allows this government to find new approaches to old challenges.

Certainly one of our greatest challenges in the future will be with our senior citizens. Within government, there is a great variety of programs and services that touch almost every ministry. Some critics may say that too much confusion exists, and I would have to agree that the legislation and the jurisdiction of some of the ministries may be totally confusing to most people. This is why I am especially pleased that our new seniors secretariat has been created within the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development.

Many members have probably read the final report of the Task Force on Ageing which was

submitted to the government in December. It makes excellent reading, because it pulls together the diverse responsibilities of many of the ministries and relates them to other activities and policies being carried out.

The seniors secretariat will have an important role to play in co-ordinating these activities and in working with seniors and volunteer agencies. The task force report reviews the history of provincial services to seniors over a 30-year period. As Ontarians, I think we can all take pride in the record of service we have maintained and expanded throughout the years. The establishment of the secretariat is another step forward, not only for the government but also for hundreds of thousands of seniors who need our help.

One of the best ways we can assist our elderly people, especially the frail elderly and the physically handicapped, is to provide programs for them in their homes. The ministries of Health and Community and Social Services will be extending the homemaker program and will integrate their services to ensure they become more accessible and available to the groups I have already mentioned, whose needs will be assessed.

The program, beginning in 1982, will permit those seniors not in need of medical assistance to receive services that will allow them to lead independent lives within their homes and communities. The program has four major objectives.

First, it will provide comprehensive shopping and services.

Second, it will provide services available through the Ministry of Health's home care program to people without medical needs.

Third, the new program will significantly increase the hours of service available.

Fourth, it will relieve municipalities of the costs of providing services to the frail and physically handicapped elderly. It is hoped that some of these funds will then be used for other support programs at the municipal level.

The program will be phased in over a five- to six-year period in those areas that already have established acute and chronic home care programs that can adjust and expand to the new services.

Speaking of new services, members may remember that a recent announcement was made concerning prosthetic devices for children. As a member of the select committee on company law, I am pleased that the unanimous recommendation to extend Ontario health insur-

ance plan coverage for prosthetic devices was recognized as valid by the Ministry of Health. Beginning July 1, approximately 75 per cent of the costs of these devices will be paid by the government for people up to and including the age of 18. This new program will cost an estimated \$13 million and will assist up to 15,000 children.

This is especially important at this age, since youngsters either wear out the devices or grow out of them. The costs of replacing artificial limbs, braces and so on will no longer be the sole responsibility of the parents. It would not be possible to extend this coverage to everyone right now because the costs would be enormous. However, as members can see, this government does listen and respond to legitimate demands for more health services. We have undertaken new programs this year despite the fact that our funding from Ottawa is being severely cut back. We are not cutting back on services or programs, we are responding to the diverse needs that exist throughout Ontario.

There is always an element of cost control and efficiency built into the system, because we must find new ways to keep costs reasonably in line. For example, the home care programs are geared to helping people remain in their homes while receiving support services that will not only help in their recovery but also keep them from spending time in hospital beds away from their normal surroundings.

New financial measures that will come into effect on April 1 will give hospitals greater flexibility in earning money, retaining revenues and putting them to better use. There is nothing wrong with taking a pragmatic approach to make the system more streamlined. We owe it to ourselves and to future generations not to be saddled with a monstrous system that is too big for our own good.

Many people seem to think that if we spend more money on health care then the system automatically gets bigger and better. This does not necessarily translate into substantial improvements in life expectancy or disease control, since these are already at high levels. There is really only so far we can go before we reach a saturation point. Taxpayers have enough to worry about at present and the government must make the difficult decisions about where those funds will go.

Some of those funds are allocated to day care services. We have restated our commitment to assisting single-parent families and working women. For 1982 and 1983 we will be providing

funds for an additional 600 day care spaces in Metropolitan Toronto. The series of initiatives announced in December 1980 is designed to make the day care network more responsive and flexible to individual needs.

Day care must be a partnership among parents, municipalities, employers and the provincial government. The provincial government does not and cannot take full responsibility for providing day care. We believe that a majority of parents can and do make their own private arrangements. We are always prepared to provide financial assistance—

Mr. Elston: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I note that the delivery of the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyn) on the throne speech is quite good and intriguing, and I can see only 14 members in the House. There are very few members of his own party, and these are important issues we are listening to.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you for the point of order. I will ask the table to check whether there is a quorum.

The Deputy Speaker ordered the bells to be rung.

11:44 a.m.

The Deputy Speaker: A quorum is present. The member for Lakeshore may continue with his speech.

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, we are always prepared to provide financial assistance to parents and families in need. Day care is a service, not a right, and the new leader of the third party recognized this when he said, "Quality day care must be affordable, accessible and universally available."

Like any other social service, day care costs money. We have comprehensive day care and health care systems in Ontario, and we are committed to supporting them. Co-operation with the federal government, municipalities and the community will result in better programs and services for everyone.

In the speech from the throne much mention was made about the automobile industry. The fate of Ontario's largest industry is being decided over the next few months and years. Our province's automotive industry, an industry so large that its success affects one out of five Ontarians, is facing unprecedented challenges.

Around the world, a revolution is taking place in the automotive industry. Trends that became apparent in the mid-1970s have now taken hold and are becoming the new orthodoxy. Today no one questions the strength of Japanese automo-

bile manufacturers. Their success lies in their ability to design products the public wants and to build these products at a low cost. Indeed, the low cost of labour in Japan is hurting automobile manufacturers not just in Ontario but around the world.

Despite this challenge, European auto makers have come up with more effective responses to Japan's low-cost exports. France's state-owned car manufacturer, Renault, is making a strong bid to become one of the leading manufacturers of cars and trucks in the world. Renault is already outshining its French competitors, Peugeot and Citroën.

During 1980, Renault was the only major European or American auto maker to increase production, turning out an unprecedented two million vehicles. Renault has transformed itself from just another manufacturer of compact cars into Europe's number one seller, winning 15 per cent of a highly competitive and fragmented market, bigger than that of the United States.

Renault has achieved these results through skilful use of research and development. The French auto maker is one of the world's leading manufacturers of industrial robots and has widely mechanized its own operations. Approximately three quarters of the robots made by Renault end up in their own factories. Company officials say 4,600 robots are operating in Renault factories, with others in use elsewhere.

The US automotive industry, impressed with Renault's track record, is quickly attempting to catch up with its French competitor. General Motors plans to buy a Renault robot to perform jobs currently accomplished by hand. American Motors, which plans to manufacture US versions of Renault designs, is looking ahead to a production facility employing 16 robots for spot welding.

In the United States, both employees and employers in the automotive industry are scrambling to find a way out of the present market slump and to counter tough Japanese competition. In recent contract agreements American auto workers have been willing to accept wage concessions in return for job security and retraining. US workers believe the writing is on the wall for their industry and are co-operating with management in an attempt to improve productivity.

But in Ontario sales continue to climb for Lada and Japanese auto dealers. The Board of Industrial Leadership and Development committee has already announced the creation of a robotics research centre in Peterborough, but

plans for an auto parts technology centre have been stalled by a lack of support from Ottawa. However, the challenges facing Ontario auto makers go beyond the need for government encouragement and involvement.

There are serious questions emerging that can only be faced by Ontario management and labour. What if US auto makers follow Renault's lead and automate plants? Where does that leave Ontario and the auto pact? What if US labour accepts contract concessions? Where does that leave the cost of production in Ontario? What if Canadian automotive unions are wrong about opposing contract concessions? These questions cannot be ignored. The automotive industry has too big an influence on the lives of all of us for the present drift to last much longer.

At this time I am pleased to say a few words on the Ontario Energy Corp. Under the dynamic leadership of the Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch), I think we have been forging ahead in looking for alternative energy sources.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Do you agree with Suncor?

11:50 a.m.

Mr. Kolyn: I will get to that.

We all know that approximately 50 per cent of all gas and oil used in Ontario is used in the transportation industry and we know we must reduce that figure substantially before 1985.

I am also pleased that the money allocated for hydrogen research and all of the other alternative fuels by this government is being pursued. I had the unique pleasure of attending a plant opening in my riding. The company's name is Emco-Wheaton. It is a subsidiary of Emco, that is, the Empire Brass Co. of London, Ontario, that makes brass fittings and plumbing supplies. This company also makes gasoline pumps and other products for the petrochemical industry.

Emco-Wheaton is a subsidiary company that has been recently started in our area to help convert cars from gas to propane gas. They have a specific carburetor and a specific program. While the cost of converting an average car is approximately \$1,400 at this time, a lot of the catering fleets and other truck users are going to this conversion. I would just like to point out that the Ford Motor Co. is putting out a car in 1982 that is fuelled by propane gas, and that is a step in the right direction.

I presume there is no one here in the Legislature at the present time who is driving a vehicle fuelled by propane gas, but I venture to say that by 1985 there will be quite a few of us

driving such vehicles, because under the Canada energy agreement Canadians will be paying somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$5 a gallon for gas by 1985. I think that people are going to be looking at alternative energy sources, such as propane gas, in a more realistic light. It is true that it is kind of expensive to convert one's car, but at present propane gas is 20 to 30 per cent cheaper than the gasoline we buy. As long as our government is committed not to taxing it any further and to encouraging these changeovers, I think we can be very successful in these energy programs.

Someone asked about my version of Suncor. It is no secret. Those of us who were not here during the Christmas break took speaking engagements. For most of my speaking engagements, I made my little speech and had a question and answer period. Suncor was one of the questions. Certainly I have my reasons for what I think about Suncor and they do not happen to coincide with what a lot of members in this House think, but I never professed to be a follower.

Mr. Bradley: What did you think of the dividends they paid?

Mr. Boudria: Was it a good deal?

Mr. Kolyn: I certainly would like to go over Suncor. I happen to think that Suncor has a lot of potential for us and I want to make a few comments on it.

Mr. Bradley: You will be moving up now.

Mr. Kolyn: Suncor owns and operates a 90,000-barrel-a-day oil refinery in Sarnia. It markets a variety of oil- and gas-based products, such as petrochemicals, lubricants and home heating oils. In addition, we have a lot of service stations and I think that these service stations could really be of tremendous use in selling alternative energy. When I talk about propane gas, there is no reason why in time the Sunoco stations could not be selling propane gas as well as selling regular gas.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Why do you have to buy the company?

Mr. Nixon: There is a Sunoco station open 24 hours a day right near you.

Mr. Kolyn: That is certainly one of the ways—

Mr. T. P. Reid: That is about the worst excuse for buying Suncor—

Mr. Nixon: They are laughing at you.

Mr. Kolyn: They are not really laughing at us. I think we own extensive holdings in the tar sands—

Mr. Bradley: They laughed the day they paid the dividend though.

Mr. Kolyn: Oh, I don't know. The dividends will show in time by the 1985 election. Time will tell. I think we will be in a good position then.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the honourable member would answer a question.

Mr. Kolyn: I am not here to answer questions, but if the member wants to ask me privately later I will be glad to answer.

Mr. Bradley: No, it is good practice for later when you are—

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to mention that a tar sands plant in Alberta is part of Suncor's holdings. In 1967, this plant was built at a cost of \$2 billion. At present this plant is producing approximately 58,000 barrels a day and its replacement cost in today's money is somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$8 billion. The technology and the technical data Suncor has accumulated up to this time puts it in good stead for future exploration. Looking at that small part from that point of view, we certainly got a good deal there.

We can debate what else it owns, but I want to say that from a political point of view, I have believed since John Turner's time that we should be energy self-sufficient and should go for that goal. Unfortunately, after Mr. Turner stated it, we did not achieve it by the early 1970s and now Mr. Lalonde has stated we will possibly be there by 1990. I fully concur with him that Canada should and can be oil and energy self-sufficient by that time if we are willing to pay the price.

It is very important. Even though the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries now has a soft market and may be reducing prices, there is no reason why they cannot raise the market price in six months, not by \$10 a barrel but by \$20. If Canada could become energy self-sufficient by 1990, it would certainly relieve us of the burden of worrying about the Arab sheikhs and their kingdoms. I have stated my position on Suncor. It is a good deal and time will prove it.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to participate in the debate on the second throne speech since I was elected a year ago this very day. It was a sad day last year, generally speaking, for Liberals in Ontario, but I

was very lucky and I am grateful to the electors of Prescott-Russell for having elected me to this Legislature.

I would like to pay special tribute not only to the electors of Prescott-Russell but to those people who worked in my campaign. I am very fortunate that with us today in the gallery is Mr. Bill Woods, who was my campaign manager. I would like to pay a special tribute to him. I would like to congratulate my new leader, the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson), on becoming the Leader of the Opposition. I am sure all members will want to wish him a successful career as Liberal leader and as the future Premier of this province.

I also want to congratulate the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps), the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) and the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney), as well as Mr. Richard Thomas of Parry Sound, for their participation in the leadership campaign of the great Liberal Party of Ontario. We are truly blessed as a political party to have people of the calibre of those candidates and I am grateful to be part of such a group. I would also like to congratulate Mr. Robert Rae of the New Democratic Party.

Prior to an in-depth study of the throne speech, let me refresh the members' memories on the constituency of Prescott-Russell. My riding is the easternmost region of Ontario. To the north lies the Ottawa River; to the east, the province of Quebec and, more specifically, the city of Montreal, the second largest French-speaking city in the world; to the south, the united counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry; and to the west, the cities of Gloucester and Ottawa. Needless to say, this is the most beautiful area of our province.

My constituents are 78 per cent French-speaking and are very proud people. They have that certain *joie de vivre* for which French Canadians are so famous.

12 noon

M. le Président, mon comté est composé de 19 municipalités dont cinq villages, trois villes et 11 cantons. Prescott-Russell et l'est ontarien sont le berceau de plusieurs mouvements francophones dont l'ACFO, l'Union des cultivateurs franco-ontariens, l'Union culturelle, et plusieurs autres mouvements. Les communautés principales sont Hawkesbury, Orléans, Rockland, Vankleek Hill et Embrun.

M. le Président, j'ai écouté attentivement l'allocation du Lieutenant-Gouverneur, espérant qu'il mentionnerait un programme d'aide aux

électeurs, spécifiquement ceux de ma circonscription, mais comme vous le savez, malheureusement, le gouvernement a choisi d'utiliser la plus grande partie du discours à blâmer le palier fédéral pour tous les maux économiques dont souffre notre province. Je dois dire que je vois d'un très mauvais oeil un gouvernement qui en accuse un autre de gaspiller l'argent des électeurs, et qui choisit, en même temps, de s'acheter un avion à réaction au coût de \$10.6 millions, et qui emprunte \$650 millions pour l'investir dans une autre province. Oui, en effet, incroyable. Je trouve hypocrite un gouvernement qui dit aux francophones que leurs services seront améliorés, et qui refuse de le répéter en anglais dans le même Discours du trône. Je suis d'avis que c'est l'indice d'un manque de courage, et surtout de bonne volonté.

We heard yesterday from the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) an excellent speech on the need to put more emphasis on high-technology industry. It is commendable to hear a Conservative member—although it is somewhat debatable whether the member is in fact a Conservative—talk about high technology and the need for expanding educational facilities and all kinds of services as they relate to that industry.

I had the pleasure earlier in the week, along with some of my colleagues, to visit some of the high-technology industries in the Ottawa area. They have no compliments to give this government for the way it has handled the training of their workers. They are of the opinion this government is to blame for much of the manpower shortage they have now in that industry.

I was happy to learn from the throne speech that the government wants to help our farmers. The pork producers in my area need more than help. With the situation the government has allowed to develop, they need a Messiah.

Last weekend there was report in Today Magazine by Roy MacGregor. This is a story about Mr. Robert Gibbs of my riding, who is now in a situation many farmers have found themselves in. The members will recall I asked a question about this gentleman during question period this morning.

Let me read some of the excerpts from this report. It is called, "Busted by the Banks." It is a grassroots report by Roy MacGregor:

"For two weeks he had put it off. But now, with the first snow tickling his eyes as he hurried from the farrowing barn to the century-old farmhouse, Robert Gibbs knew this December

would hold no miracles. Today he would have to tell Derek. He found his five-year-old boy downstairs, lost in cartoons, and at first Derek's eye kept drifting back towards the television where he had first seen and set his eyes on a brown, stuffed monkey known as Monchichi.

"Robert turned off the set and made Derek look at him straight, and when he told the boy that Santa Claus would not be stopping by the Gibbs farm this year, the soft eyes barely blinked. 'That's all right, Dad,' Derek said in his quiet voice. 'I understand.'

"But Robert Gibbs knew Derek did not, not any more than he himself understood. The boy did not return to the fantasy of television. Instead, he took his reality upstairs, quickening as he reached the top steps, and for the next two hours Robert Gibbs sat reading, knowing his youngest child was lying on his bed with his face buried in the pillow. He knew because every so often he could hear the sobs break free of their muffle, the boy already in mourning for Monchichi.

"Robert sat, smoked and stared out the front window, down the laneway and out on to concession road 9, twisting east from St. Isidore de Prescott, not far from the Ontario shore of the Ottawa River. He was on watch. Not for the mail. Not for the plough, though the snow was mounting. He thought this might be the day the bank came to collect on the \$24,000 demand note loan that he'd taken out before interest rates began spinning like gas pump readouts.

"The note was not only fully payable on 24 hours' notice from the bank, it was on a floating rate, meaning each month Gibbs was expected to pay whatever the prime interest rate was plus one per cent, a rather difficult feat for someone who was pouring 83 cents into every pound of pork he produced but could only sell for a meagre 61 cents a pound. Every time a finished Gibbs piggy went to market, Robert Gibbs ended up \$35 in the hole, causing him to fall one, then two, then three months behind on his bank payments and putting an \$8.99 Monchichi as out of reach as a new cultivator.

"A man can mull over such thoughts only so long. It was time to warm up the school bus for the afternoon pickup at Laggan Public. Forty kids to haul over 32 kilometres of back road, most of them running through the cold to the comforting farm houses of eastern Ontario. . . Most of their parents are hog producers who are "reeling under the same assault that Robert Gibbs was himself fending off. On one concession there were already three bankruptcies and

endless talk of others to come. One day, Robert Gibbs imagined, he might be driving an empty bus through empty dreams, the final witness to a Canadian way of life.

"At mid-morning the low December sun runs across Gibbs's lane and in through the storm window, warming the inner sill. A housefly stirs in the heat, one wing lifting slowly, pushing, hoping to tip the fly from its back to its feet, to renewed life. Robert Gibbs takes up yet another coffee spoon and measures out his life: the decision, 10 years ago, to buy this 100 acres for \$16,500; the five years he continued working in Montreal to afford the necessary repairs to the old house, put in heat and electricity, bring water to the barn; the high prospects he once had of a profitable beef operation; and then, a bit reluctantly, the accident.

"Robert's retired father, George, had a premonition that day, a bitterly cold November afternoon in 1976. He was working on the truck and suddenly felt he should go down towards the far fields where Robert was gathering the last of the feed corn. Robert, however, was already on his way back, driving the tractor across the frozen ruts, naked from the waist down. His pants and underwear had been twisted off by the power-takeoff shaft of the corn picker and when he met his father he calmly pointed back towards the few remaining rows of corn. 'Dad,' he said, 'I think I left my foot back there.'

"He hadn't. He just couldn't see the foot the way it was hanging, from a single muscle, under the foot-rest. They tied a crude tourniquet and made it to Cornwall, where the foot was reattached and, 18 months of therapy later, eventually returned to use. But though the foot was almost normal, the farm was not: steers and equipment had been sold off to make ends meet, and in the end, the switch to less expensive and complicated hog production seemed like the only logical turn to take.

"The outlook for pork was very good, prices up to 90 cents a pound at the market, and costs, four years ago, could be figured out with a pencil rather than a calculator. But best of all, pork had no extra cost tagged on; like beef, it had no quota system, no need for a farmer to buy the right to sell. In pork, he was on his way the moment the first sow entered her stall. Straight down the road to disaster.

"When Robert Gibbs went into hogs he owed a mere \$6,000. Today the bank figures he owes nearly \$90,000—all of it loaned by a system in constant agreement with him that he was not

only a good worker and manager but that pork prices couldn't keep falling. Unfortunately, too many had the same idea. The quota-free hog market was glutted. Hog prices drooped like the animal's ears, and stayed low. Loans granted to Robert Gibbs in 1979 at 12 per cent also changed, rising at one point in 1981 to 25.25 per cent. He was working hard, managing with the sophistication required of the times, but he was somehow caught in a stranglehold that he couldn't escape.

12:10 p.m.

"What his friend and fellow hog producer Robert Irwin said seemed to make sense: 'It used to be that young farmers went by a set of rules that always worked. You work hard, and you borrow, and you pay back the money, and you get ahead. Now, somewhere, they've changed the rules.'

"Falling three months behind in the \$2,000 a month the bank was expecting, Robert Gibbs's lot was falling to one last hope, and that was the Farm Credit Corp., set up specifically to help farmers with low-interest loans. He applied for a consolidating loan, which would put his debt within manageable bounds, and by year's end was sitting with a formal letter from the FCC confirming that such a loan would be made available to him at the end of 1982. 'That is just fine,' he says over his coffee, 'but the problem is I won't be here by the end of '82.'

"Shyly, from the bedroom above, young Derek slips silently down the worn stairs. He edges to the partition, a single interested eye peeking down at his father. The talk he has heard before, too much this winter. There are carols on the radio, but he knows better than to mention Monchichi again. The coffee grows cold, the sun is lower. The heat vanishes from the sill and the fly grows still, having never regained its footing.

"A few days before Christmas a mailbox along concession 9 opened on a parcel addressed, simply, 'To Derek, from Santa.' Robert and Denise Gibbs, recognizing the postmark as the town of a new acquaintance, peeked inside, just enough to see a small, stuffed monkey smiling out from its plastic cover, and they rewrapped the present and hid it away for Christmas morning. When Derek found it and tore the wrapping off, his eyes grew as big as Monchichi's own. That night when he crawled happily into bed he insisted the present be tucked in beside him. He went to sleep convinced that Santa Claus had somehow heard him.

"Downstairs, Robert Gibbs sat up late, worry-

ing. Unlike Derek, he did not believe in miracles. A week later the Bank of Nova Scotia in Hawkesbury called in his loan. It was over. They were, the bank manager said, doing him a favour."

Such is the story of Robert Gibbs.

This is a story that has been repeated many times in my riding. As I said this morning, we have hardly any pork producers left. The only hope recently was that this government was going to assist in providing slaughterhouse facilities in eastern Ontario. That has now been turned down by the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program because "it doesn't qualify."

A few days ago, my leader selected me as the opposition critic for the Ministry of Community and Social Services. I am very grateful for this new challenge bestowed on me. No sooner had I been selected to be the Community and Social Services critic than my phone started to ring, with various groups across the province wanting to tell me about the serious underfunding and the terrible situation this ministry finds itself in. A group from the Children's Listening Centre of North York, which applied to become a children's mental health centre, came to see me in an attempt to get assistance for their very valuable project. A group from Yorkview has been in to see me, and I have also received correspondence from Algoma-Manitoulin. In other words, it is not just a local area. I am glad to see the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) is here.

Allow me to talk about the Algoma-Manitoulin situation. The people in the community of Espanola have been working feverishly to enlarge and update their hospital and to construct senior citizens' care facilities. I am sure the members will know that. In 1980, a resolution was passed in this House urging the government to construct a senior citizens' complex in Espanola. In the last election the project was promised again by the local MPP, and just prior to last Christmas there was again another promise of a senior citizens' complex.

To someone with an untrained political ear it may be assumed that this would mean there would be three senior citizens' complexes in Espanola. Not so. There is none. There is still the promise from the folks who told us they keep the promise. I wonder when they will, or if they ever will. I fear they will not.

In the area of day care, I am especially happy to note that in the throne speech the government is committed to expand day care facilities

and to use empty classrooms in schools for such a purpose. I know Madam Speaker Fish would agree with me on this matter.

I am calling upon the government to establish forthwith day care facilities here in Queen's Park. Perhaps an office of one of the Conservative members could be used. Perhaps the Deputy Premier's office would be an excellent spot to have day care facilities for the children here. I am glad to see that the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch) is here; I am sure she would concur with that. She is probably looking at plans right now to find where to locate this potential day care centre.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Maybe in her office.

Mr. Boudria: I will agree with that. Her office would be a suitable place.

An hon. member: It's large enough.

Mr. Boudria: It is large enough.

Finally, let us talk about welfare. The welfare rolls in this province seem to be increasing by the minute. In my own area, unemployment has reached crisis proportions and help is needed immediately. It is nearly impossible to survive on the present welfare allowance.

I was asking the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) this morning how he would make ends meet on \$218 a month. It is not a question of whether or not those people want to work. How do you find a job in Hawkesbury when something like 15 or 17 per cent of the population is unemployed? Jobs are just not there.

Je voudrais aussi prendre un moment pour parler d'un sujet qui m'est très cher. Il s'agit de l'école française d'Orléans. Comme vous le savez sans doute, Madame le Président, les écoles françaises de la région d'Orléans débordent d'étudiants, et des salles de classe portatives, des édifices en désordre, sont utilisés pour enseigner à nos citoyens de demain. Une fois de plus, la population francophone de l'Ontario s'aperçoit que ce gouvernement de demi-mesure donne au compte-gouttes les services à sa population d'expression française.

Aucune mention n'est faite de cette école dans le Discours du trône. Pourquoi?

Yesterday, my colleague the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) pointed out some of the squandering of public funds that has been engaged in by the Urban Transportation Development Corp. over the past years: the purchase of four homes in Vancouver at \$200,000 or \$300,000 each for executives of this corporation

and the purchase of 26 automobiles for just about everybody and anybody are proof of this mismanagement.

An independent engineer believes that Ontario should abandon the technology used in the development of the rapid transit systems on which the government has already spent \$86 million. The president of the Ontario crown corporation, UTDC, says there have been three incidents in the past six weeks at the Kingston test site, where a model linear induction motor has burned out or exploded.

Yesterday, some members suggested that perhaps the explosion was that the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) blew his top when he heard about the purchase of the 26 cars and four homes. As a matter of fact, I think it was my House leader who mentioned that.

12:20 p.m.

Industry sources said the linear induction motor could not handle a power surge caused by a drastic short-to-ground situation. The motor was fitted to a prototype rapid transit vehicle. Brian Caldwell, a UTDC spokesman in Kingston, has confirmed the incident but could not confirm that a hole had been burned in the aluminum third rail, which feeds power to the intermediate capacity transit system vehicle.

In the Legislature, the Minister of Transportation and Communications defended the \$86-million investment of the province in UTDC, protesting against the series of stories in one of the Toronto dailies, the *Globe and Mail*.

All in all, we can say that this is a terrible set of priorities.

Madame le Président, je voudrais discuter un peu d'un sondage d'opinion publique que le gouvernement de notre province a choisi d'entreprendre l'an dernier sur le sujet de la disponibilité des services aux francophones de notre province. Notre gouvernement a posé la question suivante: "Croyez-vous que la protection et la disponibilité des services aux francophones est trop rapide, adéquate ou trop lente?" Le fait même que le gouvernement pose cette question, Madame le Président, est ridicule. Ce serait dire que le gouvernement s'est basé sur un sondage d'opinion publique pour établir le besoin des services de notre minorité francophone. Imaginez-vous ça. Si je peux dresser un parallèle: imaginez-vous un sondage d'opinion publique pour augmenter les taxes afin de construire un pont à Brampton. Pensez-vous que la population serait en faveur.

I will repeat this in English, Madam Speaker,

just to make sure all the members understand. I am sure you do, but there may be one or two members who have missed some of the highlights of what I just said.

We have a government here that has decided to hold another one of its famous public opinion polls at the taxpayers' expense. This public opinion poll asks the following question, "Do you believe that the protection and equality of the French-language minority and the availability of services is moving too quickly, at the right pace or too slowly?" I will try to draw an analogy, as I did moments ago in the French language. This is like asking the people of Ontario, "Would you be in favour of increasing taxes so we could build a bridge in Brampton?"

Obviously, if you are asking a majority of people how they feel about expanding facilities for a minority, and then you use that information as the criterion for whether or not you will establish the services, that is dead wrong. It is proof that this government has used this kind of information to divide the population of this province and then to take the side they consider to have the most votes in it rather than to provide the services that are necessary to our francophone population.

This, of course, was referred to yesterday in the House by my very distinguished colleague the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid), who has succeeded in obtaining this information. This must have been a rather difficult feat in itself.

Madame le Président, la population de notre province s'aperçoit que ce gouvernement est fatigué, et elle attend avec impatience la prochaine élection, afin qu'une fois pour toutes, elle puisse nous débarrasser de ce vieux cheval de bataille.

I am very sorry to see that my colleague the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché) is not with us at this time to participate in the discussion we are having now, because I am sure that what I said about the priorities of this government and about the way this government has divided this population would have made the member for Cochrane North attempt to cross the floor at this very moment and take up the chair behind me here, beside the member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller), which is where the member for Cochrane North should be, anyway. But perhaps he will cross over when we come back in a week or so.

I see my colleagues from the New Democratic Party are coming to life all of a sudden. They have a lot to worry about. The member for

Cornwall (Mr. Samis) may move and take over this seat before the member for Cochrane North. Anything is possible.

Mr. Ruston: And Robert is not going to run in the byelection in Hamilton.

Mr. Boudria: My colleague the member for Essex North is indicating that the new leader of the NDP—

Mr. Ruston: The phantom leader.

Mr. Boudria: —the gentleman referred to by my colleague the member for Essex South as the "Limousine Socialist," will not be running in the riding of Hamilton West.

My very distinguished friend, the gentleman who writes for the Toronto Sun, has referred to him as Chicken Bob. Would that be the proper name? In any case, I did not say that and I would never accuse anybody of being cowardly.

This government has done everything except keep the promise, and it is evident to all residents of Ontario that "Davis can't do it." This government has been in power too long, way too long; it is completely devoid of energy, vigour and imagination. But its days are numbered now, and I am sure we in the Liberal Party will cross the floor in 1984; we will give to this province new energy and vitality, and we will lead this province once again into an era of prosperity that it once knew.

Mr. Breagh: Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join in this throne speech debate on Friday morning when the galleries are jammed with the citizens of Ontario, hanging on every word, the press gallery is full in an attempt to provide to the people of Ontario full information, and all honourable members are in here and some are even awake. It is a wonderful opportunity for the members to participate.

Interjection.

Mr. Breagh: I did not mean to wake the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Rotenberg). I am sorry. He should go back to sleep. There is a rule that if you cannot find your own seat, you cannot make interjections, but I do not want to push the member because I know it is Friday and tough for him.

I want to make a few remarks about the throne speech, some of the things that were contained in it and some of the things that were not.

There is one area in which I noticed a definite decline in influence in this throne speech. I suppose it is quite understandable that a government that is not terribly concerned about its population until an election is around the

corner would forget about, a year after an election, things like health and safety for workers in the work place. It is a very complicated field, one that was the subject of much debate in this Legislature, and we thought, as I suppose we did with our environmental laws and things of that nature, that in legislative terms we had put together a good package.

Some of our laws on health and safety and on the environment look good from a legislative point of view. What seems to be missing, though, are all the nuts and bolts that come from a government that has a commitment to do some of the things it talks about. That is what is missing from this throne speech. That is why things like the controversy over video display terminals continues, even in offices that are run by the government, by a ministry.

It seems to me that a minister such as the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) ought to be meticulous in seeing that laws are respected, not just to the letter of the law but to the intent of the law. I cannot fathom how one can have an Attorney General, who is committed to the preservation of law and order in Ontario, as I suspect this one really is, but who manages to have in his own ministry's offices something that is clearly running contrary to a law in Ontario. Whether or not it violates the letter of the law—which it may not; that part is debatable—it certainly does violate the intent of the health and safety laws in Ontario, and that part is not debatable. I cannot understand how we could have an Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) so righteous as he was earlier today about certain allegations that were made, yet he is not very conscientious about applying health and safety legislation to his own ministry staff.

12:30 p.m.

I think there was some mention in the throne speech about employment. If we were to ask people on the streets today what their major concern is, I think most people would be able to talk about people in their family currently out of work, or at the very least in communities like mine about people in their family who are concerned about the stability of their jobs.

For example, a job at General Motors may be something a lot of people have had for 15 or 20 years. Through that time period there have been good times and bad times, but the one strength of it all has been long-term job stability. That is no longer the case. In almost all the families in our community there is at least one person who is out of work. In almost all these families there is that general feeling, that

malaise, that they cannot be too sure a job they have counted on for a lengthy period of time will still be there six months from now.

They already know that job, that source of income, will be interrupted regularly. Since about October of last year, almost every week we have had announcements from perhaps the world's largest and most successful corporation that it will have a substantial number of layoffs. It has been a common sight in Oshawa for more than six or eight months now to have at any one period of time from 4,000 to 6,000 or 7,000 people on temporary layoff.

The backup, or the thing they rely on, is the use of the word "temporary." We have not had the massive permanent layoffs that other auto-producing communities have had. But after one has been given that week's layoff the first time, then the second time, and now into the third round of layoffs, one begins to get worried about whether this word "temporary" is something that really means just a week or so or whether it really means that the status of one's job is being challenged.

There is also some lunacy involved in this which is not just true of Oshawa and the General Motors plant there, but also true of Chrysler plants in Windsor and Ford in Oakville. In the midst of an economic depression, layoffs and termination of jobs, there are plants working overtime. That is the phenomenon of the car industry. When the production lines roll, they want to maximize that, and even if they roll for short periods of time, one is prepared to work overtime one week because the company will have layoffs the next week. They are worried about their stock-piling process.

That brings me to another thing I find interesting. Ontario has traditionally ignored the whole auto industry. Three or four years ago in this House one could not get any of the ministries over there interested in talking about the auto sector. They did not want to talk about auto parts, the auto pact or production and assembly here. The auto industry was just the backbone of the industrial sector in the whole province and they just took that as some kind of God-given right.

I suppose they never believed for a moment that somebody in some other part of the world could successfully challenge the Canadian auto industry, which in large measure is the Ontario auto industry. Yet through all that time period everybody was saying: "It just cannot happen here. There will always be a certain number of

people who will buy those funny-looking little foreign cars, but by and large, North Americans want Chevs, Pontiacs, Fords and Chryslers."

Then the sad thing happened. Over that period when the government assumed that the base for the industrial sector was there, permanent and untouchable, that base was eroded. Slowly but surely the price of energy, the cost of the machine itself and the operating costs took their toll until suddenly we woke up and found this year that the sale of import vehicles has been taken to a record high.

Nearly 34 per cent of the market is now made up of the type of automobile we used to consider a freak. I remember when the Volkswagen bug came out and people said: "That is really a funny-looking little car. Who would ever buy it? It is not a real car." Well, those funny little cars now occupy more than a third of all sales of automobiles. The big cars, the ones we have traditionally produced—in fact, the ones we are still producing—were considered to be the real automobiles. The problem is that the real automobile, so to speak, is not selling very well any more. There is a market for it, that is true, but we are now realizing that we have to get a North American auto industry that is competitive with offshore imports.

A lot of people talk about protectionism, and I am one of them, because there is a need in a crisis period such as the one we are in to realize that we are talking about people's lives, jobs and families. We have to set aside for a moment all of the economic costs that are going to be built into this system that we live in, because if people are unemployed for a lengthy period of time they will sooner or later find themselves on the welfare roles. We will find them in the social assistance programs at a time when this government says we are going to have to put a cap on all of those things and we are going to have to stop expanding those programs.

I have learned from my personal conversations with people who work for social service agencies in my area that they are seeing a strange phenomenon. They are seeing tough, hardened, industrial workers, people who may not have said very kind things about people who would take welfare assistance even six months ago, needing social assistance. They are seeing these same people who have worked all of their lives, who have been independent, tough, worked long hours and bargained hard in their unions for a decent day's wage, coming in now for social assistance. Their lives are shattered. They do not know how to deal with this.

These are the kinds of people who live around my neighbourhood. They thought one got a job and worked hard at that job. If one bargained hard through the union for a decent day's pay, that is all life was about.

A lot of them do not understand. They just do not comprehend what it means to be without a job, without long-term security, because a worker in the auto industry understands that it is cyclical in nature. Sometimes they will build an automobile which is a great seller and they will go through a boom period as we did in Oshawa with our truck plants over the last three or four years. Then they understand there will be great drain periods when the vehicles that are made in their plant are not selling, when there is a glut on the market, but at least in Ontario's history it has been traditional that the cycle will be repeated and that a new model will sell.

What is different about these days in the auto industry is that there seems to be growing understanding that is not the way it is going to go this time. We will have to completely retool our industry. We will have to redesign our vehicles. We will have to go into competition with a group of producers that have a different set of circumstances at work for them. That is very difficult for something as massive as the auto industry to understand. Even if they do understand, and it strikes me now they comprehend what the problem is, they just do not have the capacity to turn around overnight, so there will be a need to provide them with some protection over the next few years.

I was pleased to see that the government has finally understood the problem, if not the solution. It talks about encouraging some kind of an 85 per cent value-added quota system. It strikes me that there are a lot of other things they have to consider as well. If we were to follow just what other car-producing nations do, we would probably say, "There is a cap of 10, 11 or 12 per cent on quotas." If we had any brains in our heads, we would probably say: "We are prepared to negotiate some kind of formula of around 100 per cent value added. If you want to import vehicles into our country, if you want to sell them here and our people want to buy them, that is fine, but you get your parts from this country and assemble those vehicles here." Whether the thing is in name an offshore vehicle or not, the job market in the auto industry in this country at least comes out even to where it was before.

That is not an easy thing to do and it must be particularly difficult for this government which

traditionally has just assumed that the auto industry is there, healthy and strong. It must be difficult for this government to turn around now and understand that whether it likes it or not and whatever name it wants to go by, it has to intervene in that marketplace for its own survival, if for no other reason, because without question the auto industry is the base for taxation for this province.

There are those interesting developments in this particular throne speech. There is at least some kind of final recognition that Ontario is beginning to understand that it just cannot sit back and let somebody else do all of this work, that it must be a participant. Whether it is reluctant or not, it has to intervene in that sector as well. It does that in a number of other places.

I have always wondered at the mentality of this government, which talks so strongly from time to time about being a free-enterprise political party and yet has so consistently over its history intervened in the economy. How does it pretend that it is a free-enterprise government and then run Ontario Hydro? One gets into the interesting argument: "We do not really run Hydro. We set the thing up and fund it, but we have nothing to do with it."

12:40 p.m.

This government has come around to some small degree to understand what it must do. Is it prepared to do what it has to do? It is sad to say that every time someone points out to them something they could do, an area they could move into, whether it is building diesel engines or whatever, they always seem to have a weird and wonderful way of participating.

Who asked them to buy part of an American-based oil company? I do not know. Why would that be the priority purchase? Not that there is anything particularly wrong, but what is wrong with Canadian oil companies? What is wrong with Canadian industry? What is wrong with Ontario industry? Why is the government of Ontario not prepared to move in and support those things?

They have developed this fantastic little system of grants and loans and things like that. Every time you look at the detail of one of those proposals it really is difficult to ask yourself: "Just how rational is this? What did the people of Ontario get out of this involvement?" Very often we do not get anything.

At the other end we very often see showbiz at work: a Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, a new high-technology centre, all of which sound good, I am sure, to a

great many people, except when we start to look at the nitty-gritty of it all, just exactly what did it do?

I want to bring members one little example of this in my own area. We have a harbour facility in Oshawa that serves the region of Durham. For some years now it has been the centre of quite a bit of controversy about how it will be developed and what it will do. A lot of plans were put forward. It is run by a federal agency and federal agencies, as we all know, are given to grandiose schemes, most often at the expense of common sense. They drew up a plan costing in the neighbourhood of \$10 million to \$12 million to redevelop the harbour in Oshawa. It would affect a piece of the environment that I think is worth preserving, which is called the Second Marsh. We went through all of this: little plans, they are great ones for developing plans; models of the new harbour as it would be; costing arrangements.

As part of all of this, Ontario said it would love to participate in that. It just happened about a year ago today—this is the anniversary of one of Ontario's greatest disasters—that the government in the middle of an election decided it had to participate in that one. That is a hot one; that has all the show business there. After all, they have a nice model, they have plans, and it is in the middle of an election. "We ought to make some promises to do something in that regard," they said and they did.

They participated in the funding of a little roll-on, roll-off system. I think about \$1.5 million went into that. It is a project that I think has some long-term potential but may have some short-term problems. Since they plunked their money in there, it has turned out that it has had those short-term problems. I am told that this wonderful system that we invested \$1.5 million in has put about five or six vehicles across the lake in the course of the last year, and that is kind of expensive.

The whole master plan for the harbour is sitting there and the province is saying, "We will kick in \$10 million if the federal government kicks in the remainder of the cost." In the middle of all this, people like the longshoremen are standing around asking: "Why can't we get lights fixed so we can work on the dock at night? Why can't we get the holes in the dock paved? Why can't we put up a shed to shelter material coming off the ships?"

So they put together their own little proposal, which cost probably about \$1 million. Do members think we could find somebody around

here who is prepared to participate in that? The government is prepared to throw away money in a grandiose scheme that is probably not necessary and certainly has not been proven to be necessary. They are prepared to do that, but are they prepared to do something for about 10 per cent of the cost of this grandiose scheme, something which is an immediate need, which would provide some job stability at the Oshawa harbour, which would provide a facility that is modest in size, it is true, but for which there is already a proven need?

I should have anticipated what would be in the throne speech because when I wrote to the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) about this particular proposal in December 1981, it really came back to what he had said before: "All of this is a federal responsibility, not ours." He was not saying that 10 months earlier. In the middle of an election, he was quite happy to participate in the developments around the Oshawa harbour.

What happened between March and December to cause him to lose his enthusiasm for it? In his letter to me, dated December 9, he really says, "It is not my responsibility now." I suppose it may be argued that we should have elections at least once a year in this province if that is a way of getting a little more responsibility in the system.

A lot of people have said, as we did today, that it makes sense to have an extension of a transit system because of the many people in the commutersheds around Metropolitan Toronto. I do not hesitate to remind the House that these people are there because the Ontario government in the early and mid-1970s said, "We want these people out of the city." Perhaps they said that for planning reasons or because they had friends in the development industry. I do not know the reason but they did say that.

They said it to me when I sat on the regional council of Durham and on the city council in Oshawa. From time to time they told us, "You are going to have a lot of heavy development." The town of Newcastle has a spanking new sewage treatment system that is a dandy. It was built on advice from the province and it cost us about \$10 million. The only problem with it is that it is not hooked up to anything: it just sits there in the middle of a field. It is new, it is nice, and certainly it is clean because there is nothing going through it.

In the region of Durham one will see the North Pickering airport, which is now a collection of barns with funny slogans painted on them. One will also see the North Pickering

community project, another great scheme which came out of this government in the mid-1970s. It is not even a little information office any more; even that has been abandoned. Now we have a population there of which the substantial number of 22,000 to 23,000 commute into downtown Toronto.

The price of energy and interest rates is driving the costs up to where it hurts people who have to commute every day. It seems logical to those of us who live in the area to have a rail transit system. There are train tracks with trains on them, empty trains even, between that region and Toronto. It seems logical that we should have a GO rail system from downtown Toronto to somewhere around Oshawa, Whitby, Bowmanville or wherever it is convenient to establish a rail terminal. It is not as though there are no existing rail terminals; there are. There seems to be no reason for not providing GO rail service.

However, in the wonderful way in which governments work, this government cannot provide that service without first having reports. They report to themselves and gather in reports from other people. This particular project now has—I understand it is on the minister's desk—a report from the great federal agency, Canadian National, which I understand wants Ontario to rebuild the entire track system, put in another track, build a few bridges and do a few other things, probably at a cost of \$65 million or \$70 million, before the process of providing a GO rail service can begin.

It is hard for people to understand that when they see empty trains. One would reasonably assume that the existing tracks could be used on which to run the commuter trains. I am sure if a group of citizens in Oshawa went to CN and said, "We would like to charter a train every day," CN would probably find that those tracks are now okay to handle those trains, even though GO trains cannot run on them.

Mr. T. P. Reid: CN is a nationalized service.

Mr. Breaugh: Yes. Which government nationalized CN in the first place? Was that Sir John A. or was it you guys?

Mr. T. P. Reid: I don't know, but it is one of your favourites; it is nationalized. Doesn't it operate the way you like?

Mr. Breaugh: No, it does not. There are a lot of things that do not operate the way I like.

Mr. T. P. Reid: That does away with the reason for your party then, doesn't it?

Mr. Breaugh: I am not sure about that. I am not sure whether I am dealing this morning with a Communist heckler, a Liberal heckler, a Socialist heckler or a free enterprise heckler. That is the trouble.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Liberal-Labour, please.

Mr. Breaugh: That is another variety. The federal member who made a very interesting speech describing the Liberal Party probably does not even know that a Liberal-Labour Party exists within the Liberal Party. I read in Hansard what he said in a speech about their being Communists, Socialists or businessmen when necessary, but he missed the Liberal-Labour Party. It seemed to me his speech could have been shortened somewhat if he had just described his party as a cesspool.

12:50 p.m.

I want to leave the local things and talk about this Legislature. In the federal Parliament over the last little while, there have been some rather significant events. In the weird and wonderful way in which legislatures and parliaments around the world work, one gets impasses such as the federal Parliament just had. In committee in the past week we have discussed whether it would be possible that this kind of monumental stupidity could actually happen here. It appears that it could, and that means it probably will.

That is so despite the fact that we at least have had a standing committee on procedural affairs which has met regularly over the past six or seven years since it was started. Although the federal House has had a procedural committee for a lengthy period of time, it has not had a meeting for a couple of years and did not even meet during the crisis.

We have talked a great deal about trying to bring this House into a system of committees, rules and electronic Hansard that would help individual members to be participants in the process rather than just observers. We have tabled reports and resolutions, we have had joint committee meetings and we have gone through just about everything there is to go through.

We have been unable to make many changes. We have changed the standing orders a fair bit, mostly in a housekeeping way, but the recommendations in Dalton Camp's report, the Morrow report and the procedural affairs committee report all sit on the shelf awaiting the pleasure of this House. I suppose many members have not even found them on the shelf, let alone read them.

The last crisis in the federal Parliament should have pointed out to the members here that there is a need for a parliament, like any other organization, periodically to renew itself, to take a look at what it is doing, to challenge that premise to see whether that is a sensible thing to do. In a parliament, one of the first things one runs up against is: "We always did it that way. This is the way it is done somewhere else. This is the tradition of the House."

I want to point out that it was the tradition of the federal House that got it into hot water over the last little while. It is a simple tradition, and probably a sensible one, that when the whips come in for a vote, they do one another the courtesy of waiting until all whips are present. In this instance, the Progressive Conservative whip took what one calls a "hike." He did not bother to show up for a couple of weeks.

In the middle of that crisis, did the House leaders meet with one another? Did the political leaders of the nation sit down at a table over a beer, a coffee or smoked salmon and say, "Let us resolve this problem"? No. Did the House leaders, who are responsible for organizing the business of the House, meet? No. Did the whips try to get together? No.

Over in one corner was one House leader having his press conference, in another corner was the other House leader having his and in another corner was the third party represented by its House leader commenting on what the other two were doing. None of them had the presence of mind to sit down at the same place at the same time.

We went over our standing orders the other day in committee and, quite frankly, there is nothing on the books here which says that when an impasse is reached there is an obligation on the part of certain people to sit down and resolve the impasse. We could very well have precisely the same thing happen here as happened in the federal House. Out of all the work we do in the next little while, we might resolve that one.

The federal Speaker was put in an awkward position because she attempted to deal with the matter as a procedural matter and, of course, looking at it from that point of view, there was not a thing in the world Mme Sauvé could do to resolve that problem. It really was a political problem.

What it points out is that no matter what one does, no matter which side of the House one is on, if one's actions do not seem to other honourable members to be reasonable in nature,

if one really does not want the business of the House to proceed, one will find some procedural tactic that will grind it to a halt.

Government members may say: "We will solve that one. We will not let the bells ring more than 10 hours." It can probably get everybody back in here, but they will find another device or repeat the same device. That is the point people often miss.

It is true that a parliament is a forum for debate and for processing, in this case, the province's business. I think there is an obligation on our part to see that process is of a realm that is sensible in 1982, that we retain all the traditions so that our pages go around in costumes that are not quite what my kid wears at home and that the officers of the table wear clothes that I would not normally wear on the street.

There is nothing wrong with retaining all those traditions of a parliament, but when the organization and the process that the members are forced to use is stupid—and we all recognize it as being stupid; I think that is a reasonable statement to make—then we ought to sit down and sort it all out again.

That could be done by taking a report on committees and dealing with it instead of talking about it or by putting in an electronic Hansard. It always seems to me to be insane that I can go home and watch Oshawa city council on my television set in my living room and I can watch the federal Parliament from my living room, but it seems that Ontario's Legislature is not worthy of that.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Which does the member watch?

Mr. Breaugh: I am a bit of a freak. I do watch city council and I do watch late at night. I do not understand this, and my wife criticizes me for it. At the end of a long day here, I am one who goes home and watches the federal question period on television.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Comic relief.

Mr. Breaugh: It gives me a sense of purpose in life, because I am sometimes dismayed with the question period in this House as being akin to a loony bin. Then I watch the federal question period and somehow I feel better about it. We are not quite as bad after all.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member is blaming it on the feds again.

Mr. Breaugh: I always sympathize with those who are disturbed and have problems of that nature.

In the last couple of minutes, I want to say something about a few things I see happening which I did not see much about in the throne speech.

There seems to be a big argument going on in this nation about which the public is not too aware because the public is not there; most members of this Legislature are not aware of this because they are not there either. For the past two or three years there has been a long and, I take it, expensive series of negotiations among civil servants from all the provinces and from that mass of people who work for the federal civil service. They have been arguing about established programs financing, block funding, transfer payments or changes in responsibilities for programs.

All of this is an incredibly complex piece of business. Very rarely does it surface in newspapers. Once in a while Monique Bégin will say, "If the doctors in Ontario do not shape up, we are going to cut off some of your money there," but only a little tip of the iceberg shows.

Those negotiations are continuing. In the process, Ontario is saying to many of its

municipalities in specific areas and to all of them in general: "Wait a minute. We are going to have to put a halt to some of the money that flows to municipalities to run social programs and hospitals, to build streets, to do all of the stuff that provinces and municipalities do."

In the past couple of years, the government has put the brakes on. There is the argument about whether the government actually cut back or whether it just held firm or whatever it did. The end result is that the municipalities now are in a bit of a bind, some of them more and more so because they took a lot of development over the past few years.

We are now seeing legislation before this House—it was not mentioned in the throne speech; I thought it was an interesting piece—that will authorize municipalities to get into the hospital funding business, something that has not been clear over the years. We are going to see some expansion of that concept.

On motion by Mr. Breaugh, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

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Ontario

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 11

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Monday, March 29, 1982

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Monday, March 29, 1982

The House met at 2:01 p.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

NEW CONSTITUTION

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I am sure all members of this House this afternoon will want to recognize and support the important constitutional event which took place today in London, England. Queen Elizabeth today gave royal assent to the Canada Act which provides for our new constitution. Henceforth, Canadians will be governed by a made-in-Canada document which they and their leaders have worked so long and so diligently to achieve.

It is significant that this approval today occurred 115 years, to the very month, day and hour, after Queen Victoria gave royal assent to the British North America Act of 1867. I am sure all members will share with me the sense of great honour that we, as members of this Legislature, are a part of such a historic occasion, taken within the framework of our British parliamentary and Commonwealth traditions.

We now look forward to the next formal event in the achievement of this stage of constitutional reform. I am sure we warmly welcome the visit of Her Majesty to Canada from April 15 to April 18. The highlight of this visit will be the proclamation by the Queen of Canada of the Constitution Act on Saturday, April 17, in the Senate chamber in Ottawa.

As part of that occasion and as part of the ceremony surrounding that occasion, the Ontario government is planning an appropriate ceremony here at Queen's Park which will allow members of this House and the public to participate in these celebrations. Detailed information of this ceremony will be available shortly, but for the present I will say that I am sure we all wish to express our very loyal support of this important act by our monarch.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, if I may, I wish to take a moment to join with the honourable minister in expressing our great pride in what has transpired today. I am sure our children will look back at the leaders of the day with a great sense of pride in what has gone forward as a

result of these difficult and laborious negotiations over the past couple of years.

I think we would be remiss at this point if we did not recognize the contribution of our Premier (Mr. Davis), along with the other Premiers and the Prime Minister, who laboured mightily and arrived at a compromise that, even though not satisfactory in every detail to every person in this country, was the best achievable result in the circumstances and one that will serve our country and our children well over the many years to come.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the New Democratic Party, I wish to join the minister and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) in expressing our appreciation for this achievement.

I suppose one must reflect a little on how long the process of evolution from colony to nation takes. As the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells) has pointed out, it has been 150 years since the British North America Act was first proclaimed and some 50 years since, theoretically, we became an independent nation back in the early 1930s. Now all of those trappings of an earlier colonialism have been dispensed with and we can rejoice at this achievement.

I look forward to whatever commemoration of this event the Premier and his government will be arranging for Queen's Park along with Ottawa and the rest of the nation. I trust it will be done with an appropriate degree of pride and modesty in these tough times.

LEGISLATIVE PAGES

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding, I ask the indulgence of the House to recognize the contribution of the pages who have been for us for the past two weeks and who will remain with us for the coming few weeks. I am doing this at this point rather than waiting until their term is over so that everybody perhaps will get to know them better, recognize them, speak to them and make use of their invaluable service.

I will read their names:

Melissa Barton, London Centre; Alonzo Beatty, Chatham-Kent; Fiona Bird, Frontenac-Addington; Eric Blais, Prescott-Russell; Tassie

Cameron; Ottawa East; Denis Croteau, Sudbury East; Anne Donaghy, Scarborough North; Dennis Hannah, Nickel Belt; Catherine Hooper, Mississauga North; Erin Kennedy, York South; Jennifer Klenavic, Carleton East; Paul McClelland, Victoria-Haliburton; Cathy Norris, Lambton; Douglas Pinto, Etobicoke; Stacey Rakestrow, Oshawa; Spencer Snowling, Welland-Thorold; Darryl Stewart, Durham West; Robert Turner, Renfrew North; Michelene Urlocker, St. Catharines; Patrick Westcott, Scarborough-Ellesmere; Lisa Whitehead, Orillia; Stephen York, Beaches-Woodbine.

I ask all honourable members to join with me in welcoming these young people to this chamber.

[Applause]

Mr. Speaker: Now they are all going to have to work twice as hard.

ORAL QUESTIONS

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier.

I am sure the Premier is aware of the layoffs announced last week; just to refresh his memory, there were 1,750 people laid off at General Motors, 1,150 at Great Lakes Forest Products, 925 at White Farm Equipment, 140 further layoffs at de Havilland, 150 further layoffs at Algoma Steel, 140 layoffs at Umex Mines and 125 layoffs at Armco Canada Ltd.

Can the Premier tell this House what he is planning to do about that?

2:10 p.m.

[Applause]

Hon. Mr. Davis: I should stay away more often.

Mr. T. P. Reid: I'd wait for the answer, myself.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I knew the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) would say that. I had to give him something to applaud. He has not had anything to applaud in the first week of the session; so at least I gave him a chance today. I read all that went on, including his leader's throne speech contribution, and this is the first time he has had a chance to applaud with vigour.

I must say to the Leader of the Opposition that I welcome his question. I know he raised economic issues with the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) and other ministers in the first week of

the session, including having an emergency debate.

Relating to the particulars in the question the member raised, if memory serves me correctly four of the firms he referred to were directly or indirectly related to the automotive sector. I think it is fair to state that this government has made abundantly clear to the government of Canada, including at a meeting in which I participated directly with Mr. Lumley and Mr. Gray, its views towards the solution with respect to the auto sector.

It is also fair to state that part of our problem relates to the economic policies or the economic situation in the United States, partly to consumer confidence and partly to the question of interest rates. But in this country it is also related in part to the present federal policy on the importation of vehicles from offshore. I want to make it abundantly clear that I am in no way quarrelling with, being critical of or being negative with respect to the quality of the products from other countries, but on three occasions and at the first ministers' meeting I made a speech in which I conveyed to the two federal ministers that I think this country has to become somewhat firmer in terms of its external relationships.

We have introduced the concept that was initiated by the parts manufacturing sector, supported by the United Automobile Workers and perhaps not to the same extent by the companies themselves, of at least the consideration of a Canadian content rule. In this issue we are discussing more than just the state of the auto sector; we are discussing the question of the lifestyle in this province and this country.

I have had no direct communication with Mr. Lumley since his return from Japan—I am only going by press reports—but I sense that he did not have an enthusiastic reception for his ideas or proposals when he was there. I think it is fundamental to the long-term health of the auto sector here that this country take a firmer position with respect to imports from offshore. I know the leader of the Liberal Party probably will disagree with this point of view, but it happens to be mine. It is one that I think is essential.

As to two other firms he referred to, one of them relates to a downturn in the metals industry generally; it is not a question of the economy of this province but a question of market. I think the other one he referred to probably related to the pulp and paper industry, where there has been a downturn even though,

when compared to a lot of other jurisdictions, our pulp and paper industry is still relatively healthy and we hope it will stay that way.

The Leader of the Opposition is asking what the government of Ontario can do with respect to the economic conditions. I think it is fair to state that the Treasurer has been giving this a great deal of thought. This past fall he introduced the short-term tax reduction which the Leader of the Opposition did not support but which I think had a positive impact on the 1981 inventory of dealerships. I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that every auto dealer in this province from whom I have heard, and there have been many, was totally in support of that tax holiday, or whatever way he may wish to describe it, even though in his position as financial critic he was less than enthusiastic. That is a charitable way of saying he was opposed to it.

Mr. Peterson: I am happy to have given the Premier an opportunity to make a speech. Let me ask him specifically about the White Farm Equipment situation in which, as he will recall, this government has an investment in terms of a \$2-million loan and a further \$3-million loan guarantee. He is aware that the layoffs there were not caused by lagging sales or problems in the automotive industry but by a squabble between White and a third party. How can the Premier and his ministers sit here and let those 925 people be laid off because of an internal squabble when the government has such a strong, direct investment?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I did not refer particularly to the White situation. The honourable member is quite correct. That is not related to the auto sector generally. I will be delighted to have that supplementary redirected to the minister. He may have had some more recent communication about that situation than I have had, but I think it is fair to state that at least four of the firms the member mentioned in his initial question did relate to the auto sector.

Mr. Peterson: To correct the record, it was two out of seven.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The steel industry was included.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, as I have just walked in, I wonder if the honourable member will be good enough to repeat his question.

Mr. Peterson: I am asking about the layoffs at White Farm Equipment. As the minister knows, the government has an investment of \$2 million by way of a loan and \$3 million by way of a loan

guarantee. Layoffs of 925 people were announced last week, not because of lagging sales or a depressed market but because of an internal squabble in that company. What is the minister doing about it?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, basically I can indicate to the Leader of the Opposition that our ministry has been in direct contact almost on a daily basis, if not an hourly basis, with the individuals involved. The telephones have been ringing frequently in Dallas and Nassau, where some of the officials are. For some time we have been attempting to work out some kind of arrangement. I am optimistic that by the end of this week sufficiently adequate language will have been established for an arrangement or an agreement which will allow for the recall of the individuals who unfortunately have been laid off here.

The member is quite right; there appears to be a squabble, and we think it is very unfortunate that these individuals have been caught in between. However, he can rest assured that our ministry is on top of it. People from our ministry have been in communication by telephone and have been meeting in person. Indeed, I may be directly involved with the principals.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I want to go back to the Premier. Since this is the first time I have heard him say that he agrees at least part of the responsibility in the auto sector is legislative, and given Mr. Lumley's lack of success in Japan, is he now prepared to say that, at least until some content legislation has been established with the Japanese government, we will go for and this government will support a total ban on Japanese imports until there is a resolution of that content requirement?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the member for Oshawa should consider that carefully. I really do not think people in the industry have been calling for that extreme a position. I may be wrong about that, but I do not think the United Automobile Workers, for instance, have suggested an absolute ban. This government has been making an effort in terms of any pressures that can be brought to bear to find a reasonable or satisfactory solution. I do not think I could support an absolute ban. The member is talking about a number of consumers and dealers.

I think there has to be a reasonable solution. As I said, in my view part of that solution in the longer term is the possibility of Canadian content. Quite frankly, pressures have to be brought to bear to see that some assembly or

some work is done in this country. To me, that is a potential solution as well.

Mr. Cooke: More branch plants; more branch plant economy.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I say to the honourable member who wants to interject that I understand from discussions of this issue with some knowledgeable people as recently as this morning that, in regard to the company in his own home community of which he is always so critical and which he wanted to be making the front-wheel drive, the larger units of Chrysler happen to be the ones that are selling. In spite of his predictions, that plant is doing relatively well. Does he remember that?

Mr. Kerrio: On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker: I just want to make the Premier aware that there is a Japanese backhoe, a Hitachi, digging in the front yard of Queen's Park. It is about a \$200,000 machine. I thought he might look into that to be sure it does not happen again.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is not our construction.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, since the Premier referred the matter of White Farm Equipment to the Minister of Industry and Trade Development (Mr. Walker), I wish to put a supplementary to the minister based on facts of which he is aware, that close to 1,000 people were laid off even though the product manufactured is in demand and there is no surplus product sitting around waiting to be sold.

Since his ministry and the government have a financial involvement in the White situation, does he not think it is his responsibility to call the principals into his office and see that they are not permitted to make pawns of the working people who have just recently been laid off because of some sort of internal debate over third-party financing which really should not affect the ability of those people to maintain their jobs?

2:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) brought this to our attention last week. We have been continuously and directly involved with the principals on this question since then. We share the member's concerns, and indeed those of the member for Brantford, who raised the same point, that the employees of this company are perhaps being treated as pawns in the process.

There is no doubt that there is a cash squeeze. There is no doubt that the balance sheet looks fine, but the cash problem is true and accurate.

There is a basic demand for guarantees being made by Borg-Warner (Canada) Ltd., which is the company that has provided the financing. So there is an outside external force that is being applied to these people; they did not bring it about themselves. But the problem having been brought to them, they now are in a position where there is a conflagration between the officials.

There is no question that our ministry has been directly involved in talking to the people. There is no doubt that we are going to have this matter brought to a resolution as fast as we possibly can. We do not want to see people put out on the street, nor does the member for Brantford or the honourable member wish to see anyone out on the street as a result of this. To the best of our ability, we will make sure that these people are back to work as quickly as they possibly can.

ONTARIO ENERGY INVESTMENT

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Energy. He will recall that last week I asked the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) some questions about Suncor. The Treasurer sort of redirected them, but the minister at that time did not feel it was a redirection and did not want to answer the question.

The minister said in debates on the Suncor question last fall in this House, "By any measure, the information available to the Legislature and the public of this province generally on this transaction is considerable." Can he tell this House why no one inside the House, or outside of it for that matter, at least publicly, was aware that there would be a \$78-million dividend stripped out of that company the day before the transaction closed?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, to amend the preamble to the question, if I may be permitted, that question was not redirected to me last week, with respect.

Mr. Peterson: He thought it was, but you didn't.

Hon. Mr. Welch: That is a matter of record. The point is that the price that was paid for Suncor took into account the payment of that dividend on the day it was paid.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Why didn't you tell us?

Hon. Mr. Welch: It is as broad as it is long. If it had not been part of the negotiations, the price would have been that much higher.

Mr. Peterson: Why would the minister not have told us that? Did he not think that was

material information? Why did he deceive us in that regard?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition may want to reconsider that remark.

Mr. Peterson: Perhaps that was an unfortunate choice of words, Mr. Speaker, and if they are offensive I will withdraw them.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Peterson: But the point is that this is material to the entire contract. Why did the minister not tell us this when discussing the value of that contract in the House and in front of our caucus, the New Democratic Party caucus and a variety of other people?

Hon. Mr. Welch: There was full disclosure with respect to all matters in dealing with that transaction. The honourable member knows that. The agreements that were signed have been tabled for some time. I will bet the Leader of the Opposition has not even read that documentation.

Along with the officials, I appeared before both caucuses, where any questions that were raised were answered. I will tell the member right now that this was part of the transaction at the time of the negotiation.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, since at the time the minister's officials appeared before our caucus and the matter was discussed we were unaware that the Ontario government had contemplated going into the acquisition of the Suncor shares in partnership with Hiram Walker, and since Hiram Walker subsequently bought a major stake in an American oil company, Davis Oil, and has taken a loss of more than \$250 million because of the miscalculations it made in assessing the oil reserves of that particular company, has the government re-examined the value of what it has taken over in Suncor to see whether there might also need to be a similar writedown in the value of its Suncor assets or whether the changes in the energy futures right now have depreciated the value of that government investment?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, we were never considering going into that venture in partnership with Hiram Walker.

Mr. Peterson: The honourable gentleman asked a question I want to pick up on.

The minister is aware that the world oil price is falling almost daily, and it looks as if it is throwing out of whack his calculations upon

which a fair return would have been based to justify that purchase and to say it was a good and wise investment at the time.

The minister will recall that the Treasurer said most of the people of Ontario thought the purchase of Suncor was a wise investment, and I assume that is from a financial point of view. Yet at the same time the chairman and president of Noranda, who said several other things about the whole purchase, also said he could not understand why they, the government, purchased Suncor. In addition to that, the former Treasurer, Darcy McKeough, said in an interview last week or so that he thought it was not a particularly good purchase and he would not have purchased it as Treasurer.

How can the minister stand here now, and what new information does he have to bring to this House, to say that was a good investment for the taxpayers of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Welch: There is no information available to us at the moment, I suggest, other than that we made that acquisition at a good price, and I repeat that. I also want the honourable member to realize the motivation that prompted this government to make the acquisition has not changed.

I assume the member is on the side of the fact that as far as this country is concerned right now, regardless of what may be happening in a temporary way to the world situation, we still import 25 per cent of the crude oil we need into this country, and that is not a very acceptable situation to have ourselves in.

We believe in crude oil self-sufficiency. We made this acquisition at a good price, and it is very important that the members opposite understand that particular matter and perhaps join us in acknowledging the importance of Canada being self-sufficient with respect to oil.

Mr. Peterson: Can the minister tell me how the Suncor purchase will bring one more drop of oil to Ontario?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The previous question was the final supplementary.

[Later]

Mr. Cassidy: I have a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Energy, in the House earlier today, denied there had been any plans by the Ontario government to enter into a joint venture for the acquisition of Suncor with Hiram Walker Resources Ltd. The Globe and Mail, on March 2, 1982, reported, "Energy Minister Robert Welch said yesterday that a joint venture with Noranda and Hiram Walker

'came very close and would have been an ideal situation.'" Either then or now, he was not telling the truth.

Mr. Speaker: Will you please withdraw that inference? I do not think it is called for, and certainly it is not acceptable.

Mr. Cassidy: The minister was speaking out of both sides of his mouth and contradicting himself.

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure that remark is any better. Surely this is a matter for the minister and the press to clarify.

Interjections.

ASSISTANCE TO HOME OWNERS

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier.

The Premier will be aware that two of our sister provinces have introduced budgets within the last couple of weeks and that both of those provinces, Saskatchewan and Alberta, have brought in plans to protect home owners from high interest rates. Saskatchewan's home protection plan will subsidize some 25,000 home owners against high interest rates, and Alberta has put in \$60 million to provide subsidies of up to \$520 a month.

Will the Premier indicate whether his government is prepared in the forthcoming budget to introduce some form of protection for home owners against high interest rates, since Ottawa has opted out totally?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable member knows full well that I am not in a position to disclose — and even if I were, I could not disclose—what might be or might not be in the budget.

I reiterate what I have said in this House on a number of occasions, that this government shares all members' concerns with respect to the problems faced by a number of home owners with respect to mortgage renewal. There is no question about it. We have argued consistently and continue to express the point of view to the government of Canada that it should be dealt with on a national basis.

I cannot comment on what may or may not be in the Treasurer's (Mr. F. S. Miller) budget.

Mr. Martel: We might demonstrate concern to people who are losing their homes while we sit on our hands. At the same time, in the Alberta and Saskatchewan budgets both governments have introduced programs to advance housing starts this coming year. Both of them

will contribute to approximately 50 per cent of the construction in those two provinces.

The Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada has indicated to the Treasurer of Ontario that some 22,000 jobs will be lost in the construction industry this year if we do not get a start. The Premier might be interested in knowing that in the furniture industry in such companies as Kroehler, Sklar, Croydon, Goldcrest, Simmons, Knechtel, Hanover Kitchens—and the list is endless—there are major layoffs.

Is the Premier prepared to consider in the budget—and he does not have to tell us what is in it—the possibility of this government getting involved in some form of program to initiate housing starts (a) to help the housing industry, (b) to help the furniture industry and (c) to help the lumber mills across northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think housing construction goes beyond just the furniture industry. It includes rugs and the white goods industry. It is one of the major industries in terms of the peripheral effect it has.

Mr. Martel: You are helping to make my point.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I want to be helpful to the member on any occasion I can. I was willing to recommend the member as chairman of the board of Inco. He did not want the job. I have done all I can for him.

Mr. Speaker: Would the Premier address himself to the question, please.

2:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, I shall. I totally agree with the acting leader of that party, or whatever his title is—the House leader. I know his leader is watching him carefully from the balcony to see how he performs.

The residential construction industry is important. Unlike Saskatchewan, which has introduced a number of interesting programs in the last 10 days—for reasons that became obvious yesterday—

Mr. Martel: They did not put anybody in jail.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Really?

Mr. T. P. Reid: It seems to me they put some people back to work who were on strike.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, but he is interjecting.

Not too many months ago this government initiated programs that led to the construction of some 15,000 or 16,000 rental units. These also

require furniture and they require white goods. I think that is a clear indication of the importance we attach to that industry. If the member is saying this is something that might be considered by the Treasurer, I would be surprised if he were not considering the housing industry. But that is in no way to prejudge that there will be references made in his budget to the housing industry. I cannot tell the member what is going to be in it.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer told us two weeks ago he was waiting to see what Ottawa did in terms of federal-provincial fiscal arrangements, and regrettably Ottawa seems to have acted unilaterally in introducing legislation. Will the Premier tell us if this will speed up the introduction of the budget in Ontario? Will we have it within the next couple of weeks to deal with this very serious economic situation?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the information from Ottawa has now become more definitive. I like the way the member for Rainy River has described it as a unilateral action on the part of the Liberal government of Ottawa. I think the way it was done and in that context was very unfortunate. It is very regrettable that in a federation such as ours a national government would act in this fashion.

I am glad we share that point of view. I know the member will communicate it to a very close relative of his who has some involvement in these decision-making processes in the national capital, along with the brother of another individual who sits on his right—sometimes three over, sometimes four—philosophically to his left.

I was reading all about that middle-of-the-road sort of nonsense the member was talking about. I say to him that to the contrary, now that the decision of the government of Canada has been made definitive, the Treasurer will want to assess very carefully what our financial capacity will be.

I know the members are anxious to have the budget and the Treasurer is anxious, but I think it would be more important that it be the right budget, as it has been for year after year after year. I know the member for Rainy River supports that point of view.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier if he has any idea how many people in Ontario the federal program to alleviate the mortgage problem is going to help? Is he aware that in the city of Windsor 0.8 per cent of the people who have had to renew their mortgages

with new interest rates since the program came in have qualified for the program. This adds up to a grand total of nine—three for grants and six for interest deferral.

Is it not about time this government realizes the federal government is not going to take the action and that it has the responsibility itself to bring in a moratorium on foreclosures and an interest rate relief program?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable member's initial question was whether I endorsed the federal program. If he wants me to reply to that, rather than replying to the speech he made at the end of his question, the answer is simply no, I shall not endorse it.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. The minister will be aware of the horrendous lead poisoning at Wilco Canada Inc. in London. Management there has committed the following violations: blamed personal hygiene as the problem and not inhalation even though there is not proper ventilation; respirators were not provided until the workers became ill; provided inadequate facilities for washing up; provided no lockers or facilities for washing clothes on the job; provided no lead control program or lead assessment program; and posted no results of air sampling.

Also there was no health and safety committee until the illnesses started to occur, and then the company wanted to discuss the possibility of a committee. Is the minister prepared to prosecute in this case?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the situation that my colleague has brought to the attention of this House. Quite extensive orders were issued on February 24 of this year, and the inspector asked that those orders be complied with within three months of that date. Because of the seriousness of the situation, there is a meeting going on at the plant between senior officials of the occupational health and safety branch and the officials of the company in question at this very moment. It started at 1:30 this afternoon.

Mr. Martel: Is the minister aware that the company sent registered letters which are a form of intimidation to 16 of the workers affected by lead poisoning? Let me read one paragraph: "If you do not accept this transfer, we have no alternative but to terminate your service with our company. You would not

become eligible for workmen's compensation or unemployment insurance benefits." Both of these are direct lies.

After having been instructed by their doctors to stay out of the plant, the workers are still being threatened with dismissal. What is the minister going to do?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the officials of the occupational health and safety branch who are there today are discussing that very point among many other things. They will be reporting to me later this afternoon or tomorrow morning.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, given that the incident which caused the sterility of these workers is an extremely serious matter, and given the fact the minister has said a meeting of people from the occupational health and safety branch is going on at the very moment, will the minister give the House a commitment to table at the first possible opportunity a full report on the incident at Wilco, including the results of today's meeting?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I would like to have the privilege of doing that.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, although the lead criteria were established in August, these violations have been going on for some time. Why are we going through the charade of yet another meeting? Workers are fined on the spot for not wearing their hats; yet these companies can continue to violate and all we do is to send someone in to look over the situation. The internal responsibility system, which the government takes so much pride in, is not working. When is the minister going to get tough with some of these companies?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I understand the feelings and the concern of the member opposite.

Mr. MacDonald: What are you going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am trying to do something to speed up the process. The company was given three months to comply with the orders. We are not waiting for the three months to end. We are trying to do something now.

ASSISTANCE FOR HOME CARE

Ms. Coppes: I have a question for the Minister of Health. The minister is well aware that this government professes a commitment to expanding home care in Ontario. I believe the minister is further aware that the number of home visits by the Victorian Order of Nurses in Toronto

alone has increased 42 per cent over the last five years. Why has the ministry cut \$1.6 million from VON's break-even budget for 1982? Is the minister aware that VON nurses in Toronto have already been told they may have to start looking for another job by the end of this year?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We are trying to get VON into a position similar to that of many other home health care providers as to the cost to the ministry, that is, to arrange matters so that there is not an automatic pass-through of an increase in wage and salary costs paid by VON, thus causing an open-ended situation with regard to the ministry's responsibilities. Discussions have been undertaken with VON to try to put it on a sensible and what we consider to be a more rational basis. I believe the member will find upon further research that VON will be satisfied with the arrangement finally worked out with us.

It is our firm desire to continue to expand our home care programs in homemaker services and chronic home care facilities, as well as our acute and active treatment home care facilities, throughout the province. Our dealings with VON are related to our attempt to put these programs on a fiscally manageable and responsible basis that will allow not a contraction but an expansion in that service.

2:40 p.m.

Ms. Coppes: Under the old budget of fiscally responsible management, the Toronto VON suffered a \$60,000 deficit. This year the projected deficit in Toronto alone is up to \$300,000. VON nurses in Toronto have already been told there will be no pay increases this year. There are 32 other branches across Ontario that may be suffering similar circumstances. The minister knows this shortfall could result in the destruction of an already limited home care system of delivery across Ontario. What is the minister going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I thought I had indicated a moment ago that we are trying to get out of a situation where VON, which is providing a very important and valuable service to the people of this province, is not in a situation where it is chronically running up deficits year after year and does not know if we are going to be able to cover them, but is put on a businesslike and sensible basis with the ministry.

If the member's position is that we should continue with the current situation, continue to fund deficits and not try to work with VON to put it on a basis on which we can fund it properly

in order to allow expansion of the kinds of services it provides and to ensure it is able to continue to attract the quality of people it always has, then the member should say so. In my view, cleaning up the situation, that is, putting it on a fiscally responsible, current basis, where it is not suffering under the present uncertainties the member is referring to, is far and away the preferable way for us to go and will put us in a position where we can continue to implement and increase our budgets and our manpower in the field to provide those services, which is the right way to go.

Mr. McClellan: I am sure the minister is beginning to find out what a shambles the whole network of home care and home support services is and about the ongoing jurisdictional split between his ministry and the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Whatever happened to the promise of a single piece of omnibus legislation to rationalize and put on an orderly funding basis all home care and home support services? That was first promised by his colleague, who is sitting beside the minister, in 1976 or 1977, if I am not mistaken. It has been promised again every year—1978, 1979, 1980 and 1981. Why does the minister not promise it again today, maybe with a timetable attached to it?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I want to share one of the concerns my friend the member for Bellwoods expresses that there is some overlap, some duplication in the system. I do not want to deny that. To keep it in perspective, I will say we are relatively fortunate to note that in this province we are not dealing with a large shortfall and with the absence of a lot of these kinds of facilities. What we do have is a lot of agencies, at both the provincial and municipal levels for that matter, that have responded to clear and identifiable needs. It is a much better problem to have, that is, how to sort out the number of services that are provided and available, rather than to be dealing with the unavailability and shortage of facilities.

I think the step taken to appoint Lawrence Crawford to begin to co-ordinate some of the facilities is a very important step. While I do not have an immediate piece of legislation to bring in, my colleague and I, under the auspices of the chairman of our policy field, are working very closely to see what we can do to co-ordinate and rationalize the delivery of these services. A government that dedicates itself to continuing to expand services in the way we have, under the co-ordination and leadership of the Provincial

Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch), and finds itself with so many services that there is some uncertainty as to who should go where and who should undertake a given new program has a problem, but it is a problem I would far rather have than the problem every other jurisdiction is facing, which is how to begin to move into this field.

SEVERANCE PAY

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Will the minister give the House some assurance he is prepared to assist such workers as those at Dominion Auto Accessories in Windsor, where the last 49 workers of an original work force of 101 are denied severance pay benefits that in many cases would amount to as much as \$4,700 because the sequence and timing of the layoffs mean that 49 rather than 50 workers lose their jobs in the final layoff?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I have asked my staff for a complete investigation of that situation.

Mr. Mackenzie: I wonder if the minister is also aware of the growing number of employers who appear to be taking advantage of the severance pay legislation through staged layoffs of less than 50 employees or through transfers to other operations prior to layoffs so that severance pay is not applicable? Is he prepared to plug the abuses by removing the 50-person requirement for a permanent layoff so all those facing permanent layoffs have the same rights? Why should 49 workers have no rights compared to 50 workers just because one fewer is laid off?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: That matter is under review. I would like to ask the member if he would be good enough to let me know the identity of any companies he feels are bypassing the legislation.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to know from the minister if he will review the legislation to tighten up these loose ends to ensure that these managers and the corporations which own these plants do not deliberately try to avoid their responsibilities and the intent of the legislation. Second, in the specific Windsor case, if he finds the employer deliberately tried to avoid the intent of the law, will he ensure these workers are paid the money owed to them?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I think the

member's request is a reasonable one. Accordingly, I will certainly look into it.

SKILLS TRAINING

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities. The minister will be aware of the serious problem of youth unemployment in Ontario. I believe the most recent figure was something like 163,000. I am making reference to the most recent Ontario Manpower Commission report, Labour Market Outlook for Ontario, 1981-1986. It says, "The overall supply of university graduates would far exceed the projected requirements. For occupations where colleges are the main source of supply, such as engineering technicians and technologists, the college system will not be producing enough graduates to meet the need." It goes on to say, "The potential supply from the apprenticeship and modular training programs would provide roughly half of the manpower needs for these occupations."

Given that this report, the most recent one from the manpower commission, clearly indicates a serious mismatch between the manpower needs of this province and the manpower supply of this province, with every one of those programs coming under the jurisdiction of this minister, what is she going to do to alleviate that mismatch?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is perfectly obvious that the honourable member has not been aware of the recent initiatives that have been taken that have significantly increased the numbers of those involved in apprenticeship programs, as recognized by the latest information which has been developed by the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission and Statistics Canada.

This has significantly increased the number of training programs under employer-sponsored training in a way which the federal government through CEIC is now not only applauding but supporting financially. It has significantly increased in number the young people who are involved in linkage programs in the secondary schools that provide them with a portion of the academic part of their apprenticeship training while still in the secondary school program.

It sounds to me that the honourable member is asking whether I am going to suggest to the students of Ontario that they not become involved in educational programs at our universities. I think that is a very shortsighted view and I am absolutely astonished the member would even so much as allude to the fact that a

university education is not likely to be appropriate in these changing times.

There can be no doubt that we have specific needs for specific training in specific areas, but for the next two decades the only constant I can see in our society is going to be change. Those people who are best able to adapt to change, to be flexible enough to deal with change, are people who have had an appropriate educational program. I believe that an arts and science program at a university is a very appropriate university and educational training.

I would hope the honourable member would support that kind of thesis. We are not about to become dictators about who goes where to do what for training and education in this province.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Sweeney: I would remind the minister that with all of her vaunted new programs this report is dated only four months ago, November, 1981, and is a projection of her colleague's Ontario Manpower Commission for the period 1981 to 1986. I am reasonably sure that her colleague's ministry would be aware of the programs she mentioned and would have taken them into consideration, so that is not a very suitable answer.

May I go on and point out to the minister that one third of the university graduates in Ontario were underemployed on the basis of a previous Ontario Manpower Commission report and that has now increased to 39 per cent underemployed. An earlier report showed 21 per cent were in jobs not related to their training and, by the most recent report, that has increased to 23 per cent.

I would have to ask the minister, again referring to her previous answer, what kind of guidance counselling is going on in the secondary schools and even in the universities and colleges of this province where one quarter of the graduates end up in programs or in jobs that have nothing to do with their training and up to 39 per cent of them are underemployed on the basis of their training.

We have to ask this minister whether or not she and her staff are doing anything about these questions because the reports go on year after year and the same thing comes out.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There has been a very concerted effort within the Ministry of Education and within the community colleges of this province to ensure that appropriate guidance and counselling are being provided.

We have extended guidance and counselling

to grades 7 and 8 across the province within the past year because we recognize that students make their decisions about career choices very much earlier than the teachers who were around when the honourable member was involved in the educational system directly understood that they made their choices. Indeed, as a result of some of his efforts and expressions of concern, we have moved that activity, related to guidance and counselling, very much earlier into the public system.

I would ask the honourable member what his definition of underemployment is. Would he agree with me that perhaps some of the members of this House on the opposite side are overemployed at the present time? Has the Peter principle reached the opposition? One really has to be concerned about this.

I am not convinced that those "experts" who wrote that interesting report, stimulating though it is and motivational though it is in terms of the kinds of examinations which we must take, really understand underemployment and overemployment for university graduates.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister why, if this government is serious about skills training in this province, it took six months to get the skills training centre open in Windsor after it was ready, built and completed in September. It has now been open for only two weeks.

Has the minister been in contact with General Motors, which just closed its brand new skills training centre in Windsor, which was built because they had to import 95 workers three years ago?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the skills training centre which is currently functioning in Windsor will perhaps replace some of those which were operating in other areas. They cannot in fact provide all of the skills training. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that employers in this province, as well as across the country, recognize their responsibilities for training. The weak link at the present time is within the private sector in terms of providing places for on-the-job training.

Somebody mentioned Ontario Hydro. Obviously they do not know that Ontario Hydro has one of the best training programs provided by a non-institutional or academic institutional arrangement anywhere in Canada, and it is so recognized by all the other provinces in Canada as well.

The member knows why we had some difficulty. It was a conflict that occurred over which,

unfortunately, the ministry had no control, but we were able to negotiate a resolution and that institution is now open and functioning.

INDIAN BANDS COMPENSATION

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, my question is of the Premier. It was reported at the end of last week that the federal government had reached a substantial settlement with the Islington band at Whitedog and Grassy Narrows with respect—

Mr. Speaker: With all respect, I cannot hear the question and I am not sure whether the Premier can. I would ask the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins) and the member for Halton-Burlington (Mr. J. A. Reed) to please confer with the minister afterwards. The member for Riverdale has the floor.

Mr. Renwick: My question is of the Premier. It was reported at the end of last week that the federal government had reached a substantial settlement of the claims of the Islington band in the Whitedog and Grassy Narrows area regarding the destruction of the English-Wabigoon river system because of the deposit of mercury by the Reed Paper Co. several years ago.

What is the present position of the negotiations between this province, Great Lakes Forest Products Ltd. and Reed Paper Co., to the extent that they are involved, and the band councils of those two bands to bring to a settlement the obligation of this government and the obligation of Reed now transferred to Great Lakes Forest Products?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I wonder if the House would indulge me. I think the former Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, now Minister of Labour, can probably help with part of the answer. It may be that the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), who is unfortunately incapacitated, might have to help with the balance of the answer.

If he is still incapacitated tomorrow, I will undertake to get some form of answer on the legal aspect for the member, but if the House will agree, I think the Minister of Labour can answer part of the member's question.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I believe I can answer with a certain amount of enthusiasm.

An hon. member: Enthusiasm?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Enthusiasm on the basis that in the past couple of months there has been considerable progress made in reaching a solution to a problem that has been ongoing for a period of three years. I have not been actively involved in the past month since changing

portfolios, but I have kept in touch with my former portfolio and have been led to believe that things have been moving quite satisfactorily. I know they were definitely headed in that direction a month ago.

For example, we managed to get the Whitedog situation, the unrest and doubt as to where the province stood, established to the satisfaction of Great Lakes Forest Products and of Whitedog, which permitted them to get to the bargaining table. This is something that had not happened in the past. I think that was a major breakthrough.

Another major breakthrough was that we were able to work out the difficulties Whitedog was having with Ontario Hydro. Those have been resolved and an agreement may already have been signed in that respect. If not, it will be signed quite shortly. All in all, I think things have been moved off-centre. I know I was very pleased with the progress that was made during the months of January and February.

3 p.m.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to the Premier, because the minister who is responsible should be reporting to the House, not the former minister. The question does not relate to the legal obligations which may fall to the Attorney General.

My supplementary question is: When is the \$15 million going to be paid by Great Lakes Forest Products? That was the minimum amount of money that was to be their obligation. What is the extent and degree of the Ontario government's obligation and when will the settlement be effected?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think there are actually three questions. With great respect, the honourable member has phrased it in a way that is probably not factually correct. I will get that information. I will not guarantee to have it here on Tuesday, but if not Tuesday, I will have it for the honourable member on Thursday.

SUCCESSOR RIGHTS

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. The minister will certainly agree that the current state of the economy requires a condition of sound labour relations in this province to help protect workers. Therefore, I wonder whether he is aware of a situation that has arisen at Emrick Plastics in Windsor.

A new employer, who purchased the company after it had been in receivership, is

apparently flouting the terms of the existing collective agreement with Local 195 of the United Auto Workers union by forcing employees to reapply for the jobs they have been performing. Furthermore, he is only selectively rehiring those employees in utter disregard of and disrespect for their rights under the collective agreement. Is the minister aware of this matter, and what does he intend to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the matter but I will be by the time the day is out.

Mr. Wrye: Surely the minister should recognize that the actions of Emrick are a direct result of the lack of teeth contained in section 63 of the Ontario Labour Relations Act. Surely he agrees that what is happening is a rather crude attempt by an employer, who is literally bringing people in off the streets, to break the union and demoralize the rank and file by stripping them of their leadership.

What commitment is the minister prepared to make to the House to introduce tough deterrent penalties upon any employer engaged in such callous disregard of the successor rights provision of the Ontario Labour Relations Act?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I will have a completely detailed answer to that for the honourable member tomorrow.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION BILL

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister without Portfolio who is presumably in charge of freedom of information.

The minister will be aware that six months before the Williams commission reported, the Premier assured this House that as soon as it reported the government would proceed with a bill. He will also be aware that his predecessor, the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope), who was in charge of advancing freedom of information, shared in the press conference announcing the royal commission report and said we would have a bill before Christmas. That was Christmas of 1980. In view of that, the minister on the eve of this session was quoted in the *Globe and Mail* as saying:

"But if the cabinet asks me which way is easier politically, to go ahead or just drop the bill, I will probably have to answer the easiest thing politically is just to say no to freedom of information and walk away from it. There is no way we can win on this issue. We are going to be in hot water regardless of what we do."

I have two questions of this midwife over here who was going to bring in an abortion or something stillborn.

After seven years of consideration of this issue by the House and after the expenditure of \$1.5 million on a royal commission investigation, how can the minister be contemplating for one fleeting moment that he is going to walk away from this? Secondly, if he is in the hot water at the prospect of bringing it in, is he not in hot water because of his absurd recommendation to the cabinet that they should be the final arbiter of any difference of view on whether freedom of information may be made available and therefore in violation of the royal commission and every other advocate of freedom of information legislation?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, as a point of information to the member for York South, I do happen to be the Provincial Secretary for Justice.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, no doubt this question relating to the freedom of information and the privacy law has been with this government and many other governments around the world for a long time. The British started to consider this question in 1968; in 1972 the Australians did as well, and in 1974 it was the Canadian federal government. I believe it was in 1976 that our government went into this matter.

The member for York South is not correct in saying that our model, in relation to the final appeal process, is unique. If he would study the Danks report from New Zealand, which has been dealing with the issue since the early 1970s, he would see it recommends a similar model for the appeal process.

My intent, as I have outlined in a public statement, is that the principle of ministerial responsibility should be maintained. I believe, and I am recommending to my cabinet colleagues, that the final responsibility as to whether a document should be private or public should rest with the politician and not the judge.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister can tell me what he tells the Honourable Walter Baker, his fellow traveller in the federal riding of Nepean-Carleton, who has complained publicly about the stand of this government with respect to freedom of information.

Can the minister tell this House what he tells his friend when he complains about the minis-

ter's indifference? When the federal member asks when, where and how he intends to bring forward the long-promised, much-talked-about and endlessly studied freedom of information bill for Ontario, can he tell us what he tells him?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, I have spoken to the Honourable Walter Baker on this matter on many occasions; in fact, we debated it on the radio. I disagree with him. I stated publicly that I disagree with him.

I hope I will be able to bring this matter to some conclusion in the very near future. It is now being considered by the executive council, and in the not-too-distant future I will be able to proceed with a piece of legislation outlining the access and privacy policies of this government.

[Later]

Mr. Conway: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: So that my friend the Provincial Secretary for Justice will not be under any false impression, I wish to set the record straight. The federal member, Mr. Walter Baker, said his fellow Tories at Queen's Park were racing full-speed back to the Middle Ages with their stand on freedom of information.

DAY CARE

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Community and Social Services on the subject of taxation of day care centres. The minister knows that the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe) has decided to proceed with realty tax assessment of nonprofit day care centres located in public schools, specifically in North York. I am informed that his officials have undertaken a study of this issue. Why is he now just studying this issue when day care centre operators are faced this year with an immediate tax increase and costs of approximately \$1,500 per classroom used for this purpose?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I have brought the matter of the use of school space, as well as others, to the attention of my colleague the Minister of Revenue. I am confident the problem will be solved shortly.

3:10 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

CITY OF TORONTO ACT

Ms. Fish moved, seconded by Mr. Shymko, first reading of Bill Pr13, An Act respecting the City of Toronto.

Motion agreed to.

CITY OF WINDSOR ACT

Mr. Cooke moved, seconded by Mr. McClellan, first reading of Bill Pr6, An Act respecting the City of Windsor.

Motion agreed to.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES
AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Kolyn moved, seconded by Mr. MacQuarrie, first reading of Bill 33, An Act to amend the Residential Tenancies Act.

Motion agreed to.

LANDLORD AND TENANT
AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Kolyn moved, seconded by Mr. MacQuarrie, first reading of Bill 34, An Act to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act.

Motion agreed to.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD
AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Swart moved, seconded by Mr. Philip, first reading of Bill 35, An Act to amend the Ontario Energy Board Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, the bill adds energy conservation to the matters to be considered by the Ontario Energy Board in setting gas rates. It also clarifies the board's jurisdiction over the hookup charges levied by gas companies and is intended to prevent extra charges because fuel-saving measures or devices are embodied in buildings.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
ON NOTICE PAPER

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I wish to table the answers to questions 1 to 7 on the Notice Paper [see Hansard for Friday, April 2, and the interim answer to question 13. See Notice Paper].

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Chairman, before we go into the order, I thought I might indicate that, with the agreement of the House leaders, we have come to a slightly different order for the estimates to be called today. They are in the same numerical sequence, with a few missing. The Ministry of Government Services, I suggest, could go first, followed by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Environment.

Before the House adjourns at six o'clock tonight, we will announce the order for tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman: It is my understanding from the House leader that this is in agreement. With that in mind, we will proceed in that order.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES,
MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

On vote 503, real property program; item 2, real property acquisition:

Hon. Mr. Wiseman: Mr. Chairman, if there are any questions relating to these supplementary estimates, I will be glad to answer them at this time.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, I do not have too much to go on. Perhaps the minister can give us some additional information relating to the \$3,837,100 required additional funding to carry out his ministry's program of acquisition of real property. Looking over the past three years, in 1979-80 the actual cost involved was well over \$85 million, in 1980-81 it dropped down to \$28 million and some, and in 1981-82 it was \$20 million. Now the minister is asking for an additional \$3.8 million.

The question is, where is this property being purchased? Is it being purchased for the land development bank of the province or is it being bought for some other reason, for some other provincial agency? Can the minister tell us what this is all about? Where and in what community is the land being purchased?

3:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Wiseman: In 1974, when it was decided to purchase the land for Ontario Hydro in the parkway belt, the Ministry of Government Services was directed to purchase the land and Ontario Hydro was to pay for all the land we purchased at that time. Subtracted from that would be any lands we needed for other government uses such as highways. The Ministry of the Environment might want to run a line through; there could be things of that sort.

In 1980 it was decided that the payment we owed Hydro to bring us up to August 1979 was in the amount of \$58,466,484.13. The additional amount we are asking for in the supplementary estimates shows \$8.3 million, but we have built into our estimates enough to cover the balance. The real figure we owe Hydro at this time is \$8,375,121.18. This represents all the purchases we made that we are using for other government purposes up to August 31, 1981.

In this figure there were a few transactions that we were not able to complete in 1978, so

that makes up part of the almost \$8.4 million we are paying this time. I am told there will be a bit more to pay in future, and the honourable member may be interested to know that the amount we are talking about today represents about 85 properties.

Mr. Haggerty: The minister is telling me we are buying it from Ontario Hydro which over the last few years has had difficulties in running its cables and high-tension wires along that corridor. I imagine much of it has to do with the Niagara Escarpment bordering on that area. It seems to me we are talking now about running highways. The minister is not quite sure whether the land is being bought for highways or for park purposes.

What are we actually talking about? Why is there a need for this land? Ontario Hydro bought it and now the ministry is paying it back; is that what the minister is trying to tell us?

Hon. Mr. Wiseman: No. Where the Hydro corridor runs, Hydro paid the whole thing at first. We have looked into the possibility of where we may need some of that land for a road or road widening. Perhaps the Ministry of the Environment needs some land for water and sewers or something of that sort where we will need it in future for government purposes. We are paying for that portion of it. We will not need all that land and some of it will be sold off, as has been done in the past. The portion that Hydro is using for its corridor has been subtracted from this amount. Am I making it clear?

Mr. Haggerty: There were public hearings in the past for the purpose of Hydro obtaining land for a right of way. The question now is, if the government is moving in to take certain lands for its projects, whether for sewers, water lines, parks or highways, should there not be further public hearings to inform the public of the intent of government to move into this particular area? Perhaps the people have not had a proper hearing; the hearings related to Ontario Hydro, but not to any government projects in this particular area. I sense that the minister may get himself involved in something that could be more costly than buying the land without the public being informed.

The minister is saying one thing about the corridor from the Bruce Peninsula to this particular area, the Georgetown-Bradley junction, and Hydro is saying that it is going to be used for hydro only. Now we find there may be a switch and it could be used for a highway, or it could be used for bringing a water line down—

something they talked about years ago—from Lake Huron to feed the area here.

I suggest to the minister that he seems to be circumventing the real intent by not informing the public of the government's intention. I do not think the government should have it both ways, getting land for a hydro corridor and then going back for other services, without the public being better informed about it.

The minister says he is going to be selling some of this land back. Why would he buy so much and then turn around and sell it back?

Hon. Mr. Wiseman: Any watermains or highways that would go through there would be subject to environmental assessment and all the other programs they would have to go through before they would start. I am sure the honourable member knows that.

In some cases we have bought so much of a person's land that we have land-locked some of it. I know the honourable member who asked the question is a farmer. He knows that if you block his way of getting in to do his work you should really buy that land, because it is not any use to him if he cannot get the machinery on to work it. This is where we have had to buy some, where we have taken so much of the land that it is not a viable operation any more. Maybe we bought it voluntarily; maybe the land compensation people have said, "You have taken so much that you should buy the whole thing."

These are areas where we usually buy the land and perhaps sell that land-locked piece to the farmer next to him to work, these sorts of things. If it is a bit that lies outside the parkway belt, we have sold some of those in the past and we will in the future as people come along.

As for a road or a sewer line going through there at some time, it would be subject to environmental impact studies and the public would be involved in those.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, I would like to deal with a matter that deeply concerns me. I want to go into it in some detail with the minister and get a detailed response. The matter I would like to deal with involves the construction of physical assets and therefore is included under this vote.

Mr. Chairman: Just keeping the agenda in mind, it does say real property acquisitions. You may continue and we will hear what you have to say. I do want to make sure that we are on the right vote.

Mr. Philip: I can assure you we are on the right vote.

Mr. Chairman: In terms of your comments.

Mr. Philip: You will find what I have to say very interesting.

Mr. Chairman: That is not the point.

Mr. Philip: On October 26, 1981, the Ministry of Government Services called for public tenders on the uninterrupted power conversion system, UPCS, for the Ontario government computer centre. The UPCS is basically a large battery which stores power. It is hooked up to a rectifier, which changes the current from AC to DC, and an inverter to supply power to the computers.

Two companies bid on the contract. One was Datasphere Sales Ltd.—

Mr. Chairman: The minister has a point of order.

3:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Wiseman: Mr. Chairman, I have been expecting this question in question period for two or three weeks, ever since the researcher came over and talked to our people. It has really nothing to do with the purchase of land in the Hydro corridor, but I would be glad to answer it tomorrow in question period or at any time the member would like to ask me. I have been expecting it since the House came back into session.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, with the greatest respect to the minister, and I hope the minister will consider it, question period is not a time during which we can go into something in as much detail as I wish to share with the minister. I would submit, sir, with the greatest of respect, that this deals with the construction of physical assets, that what we are dealing with is a large battery which supplies power to computers in these buildings.

I hope that the minister will permit me to give him some detail on this. This is clearly the forum in which we can cover it, not in question period where we have only one or two minutes to deal with a matter. I think this is something that requires some detail and I would ask the minister to consider allowing me or encouraging me to put on the record some of the information I have. He then would have an opportunity to elaborate at some length, if not today then maybe with a ministerial statement on the subject.

Mr. Chairman: I want to reiterate to the member that I am having some difficulty in formulating his inquiries under supplementary estimates. Keeping all things in mind, the minister has indicated that he is willing to answer. What does the member think about

dealing with this when regular estimates come forward?

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, I have a number of other issues I can deal with in the other estimates. I would like to deal with this at this time. It is a matter of great concern to me. A number of jobs have been lost in Canada as a result of the actions of this ministry and there are very irregular procedures in terms of the tender. I would like to deal with this issue at this time because it is a matter of some urgency, and the minister should have an opportunity to reply in detail at this time.

Hon. Mr. Wiseman: I am really willing to answer at any time, but in all fairness, the estimates we are dealing with today concern the parkway belt and not our computer centre battery terminals in the George Drew building. That is all I am saying.

If we are going to open it up to discuss everything in the Ministry of Government Services, that is fine; I have been here a couple of years and I am comfortable with it. But that is getting far off track, and I think we are really talking about the Hydro corridor and the parkway belt. As I said, I have been expecting this question for two or three weeks and I would be glad to answer it in question period or, if the member wants more detail, whenever our estimates come along. But I do not think this is the time to discuss it, right here today, if we are going to keep on track.

Mr. Stokes: I do not know whether what I am going to say will be of any assistance, but if we look at the supplementary estimates that were presented to us by the Chairman of Management Board there is very little detail other than the actual amounts in very general terms for the area of the ministry the supplementary estimates cover. On page 2 of the supplementary estimates dealing with the Ministry of Government Services you will note an amount of \$3,837,100 for the acquisition and construction of physical assets.

I listened very carefully, Mr. Chairman, when you asked the minister if he had an opening comment or anything by way of an explanation for the benefit of members as to what specifically this money was required for. He declined to make an opening comment. I submit to you, sir, that anything dealing with the acquisition and construction of physical assets is quite appropriate for comment when a minister of the crown comes before the committee of supply asking for additional sums.

I am sure he must have had some input into the limited amount of information which was given to the House and which includes specific reference to acquisition and construction of physical assets. No reference to the parkway belt was included. When asked if he wanted to be specific and focus on it, the minister declined to do so. However, I think anything that deals broadly with acquisition and construction of physical assets is quite appropriate for comment during these estimates.

Mr. Chairman: Could I ask the member for Etobicoke how much time he will require to deal with the problem he proposes to discuss?

Mr. Philip: I think I can cover it in half an hour, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Following the example of the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), I read under supplementary estimates "real property acquisition." I am sure the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) could tell us what "real property" means from a legal standpoint. However, in your opening statement you indicated something to do with the construction of computers, which I would think would be considered chattels. On the other hand, if the chattel is secured to a particular piece of property and land, it would certainly fall under the category of real property.

I cannot anticipate what the minister will do with this, but he has indicated he would probably not respond to some of your inquiries in the area you want to investigate. However, in an effort to reach a happy medium, I wonder if the member might find a time somewhat shorter than half an hour that would be sufficient to get ourselves out of this predicament.

In view of the comments made by the member for Lake Nipigon and my ruling that property acquisition in the area on which you are focusing may come under real property, although here I am stretching it a bit, you can continue. But keep in mind that the chair will not be looking favourably at so long a time as half an hour.

Mr. Philip: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a great pleasure to have the experience of the member for Lake Nipigon, who understands parliamentary procedure better than I ever could. I appreciate his counsel as well as your decision.

On October 26, 1981, the Ministry of Government Services called for a public tender on the uninterruptible power conversion system for the Ontario government computer centre—I

mentioned before exactly what that entails—and two companies bid on the contract. One is Datasphere Sales Ltd., a sales office of the US-based Emerson Electric Co.; the other is Exide Canada Inc. of Mississauga, a subsidiary of Inco, which is a Canadian company.

Back in 1976, Exide and Emerson bid on a similar contract which was awarded to Emerson on the grounds that it had the lowest bid. Exide complained at that time that the Emerson system was dumped on the Canadian market at below normal trading prices. The system had been commissioned and built for the US army and was sold as surplus. Exide fought the issue through the federal anti-dumping tribunal, which was unable to establish dumping because of the nature of the product.

This time the companies were given until November 19, 1981, to submit their bids. Exide asked for an extension because the technical details were written according to the specifications of the Emerson system and they needed additional time to translate the details. This ministry showed its great Canadian patriotism by refusing the request. None the less, they both submitted in time. Exide had the lowest bid, but the Ministry of Government Services awarded the contract to the US company. As of today, Exide has not been officially informed by the Ministry of Government Services that it did not win the contract. Exide was informed in a phone conversation, which was initiated by Don Sly, chief electrical engineer, that he had recommended the other company. In a letter dated February 16, 1982, the Premier (Mr. Davis) informed them they were unsuccessful. The point, however, is that the tender office and MGS did not officially communicate the results of the tender to Exide.

3:40 p.m.

Exide understandably is as angry as I am that it did not win the contract. On January 14 they sent a telex to the Premier with a carbon copy to the member for Mississauga North (Mr. Jones). On January 29, 1982, they sent a telex to George More, office of procurement policy, Ministry of Industry and Trade Development, answering questions he had raised. On February 9, 1982, they sent another telex to the Premier with a carbon copy to the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman), Mr. More, the member for Mississauga North, the member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory), the member for Mississauga South (Mr. Kennedy) and the Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie).

The documents on file at the tender office

only record the bid amount submitted by Exide; the Datasphere bid is left blank. At the public opening of tenders on November 19, 1981, only the Exide bid was read out; the Datasphere bid was not. The Ontario Manual of Administration states: "At the opening, only the tender number, bidder's name and address and the amount of the bid—that is, the total, partial or no bid—need be announced and recorded."

Mr. Pencak, the assistant deputy minister, explained the situation as follows: "Tendering officers are required only to read the bottom line total. In this case, Datasphere had not added up the three figures and consequently failed to fill in the bottom line. As such, no total was read out at the bid opening."

According to Exide, they were neither contacted nor informed as to what the total Datasphere bid was once MGS had completed the addition. Therefore, they did not know who had the lowest bid. The bids were as follows: Exide, \$263,834; Datasphere, \$423,944—a difference of \$160,110. The bid does not represent the total value of the contract. There are still an additional two units to be purchased at a cost of \$160,000 and a preventive maintenance package and spare kit part and so forth. This makes for a total Datasphere contract of more than \$600,000.

The rationale for refusing the bid is very interesting, as noted in the briefing notes that were attached to the Premier's letter. Perhaps somebody in his office slipped up and accidentally attached the briefing notes. The reasons outlined were as follows: evidence of poor Exide track record; Inco's attempt to sell Exide; five identified technical shortages; and incompatibility of the existing Emerson system and Exide add-on.

The letter the Premier sent to Exide is dated February 16, 1982, more than a month after the purchase order sent to Datasphere. In a telegram to Mr. More and ITD on January 29, 1982, Exide responded to these reasons, and I would like to summarize the response.

The company had increased its field services so the track record was not an issue or was not relevant to the first point. Inco supplied a letter of comfort agreeing to honour any business commitments that Exide must make. Thus, the second point is completely erroneous and of no consequence.

They supplied a list of computer users to comment on equipment reliability. The list included Statistics Canada, the Toronto-Dominion Bank, IBM, Canadian Pacific and the Alberta

government, interestingly enough. It seems to be more interested in buying Canadian than this government is.

Exide contends compatibility of equipment is not a problem. The interesting thing is that when asked for a third-party analysis, that is, outside consulting engineers to assess the situation, this government refused.

It is interesting to note the present state of Exide. It now has 33 people out of 88 on short-term layoffs working three days a week, with the Unemployment Insurance Commission paying two days a week. What we are talking about is not just a loss of a contract to a Canadian company, but also a loss of jobs as a result of this government's action.

If we deal with some of the details of the instructions of tenders, the Ontario Manual of Administration in its policy statement No. 1 states: "Whenever possible product service requirements shall be described in terms of performance, design or generic specifications in order to encourage supplier competition, and general brand names shall not be specified unless accompanied by the words 'or equivalent.'"

The next sentence is the interesting key point. "However, when special circumstances make performance, design, comparative or generic specifications impractical, a written explanation authorized by a senior official of the ministry shall be attached to the requisition and a copy retained for audit purposes." No letter was sent to Exide until it sent three telegrams and made one phone call to the ministry.

Second, at the bid opening no bid was recorded for Datasphere and, as I have indicated before, subsequent to the bottom line being filled out by the MGS, Exide was not informed.

Third, Exide was not officially informed it had lost the bid. The decision to recommend was made on December 21, 1981. The purchase order was written on January 8, 1982, and only in a response from the Premier on February 16 did the company know for sure what had happened.

Fourth, the background briefing notes of the Premier's letter point out that "MGS officials, after consulting with Mr. Wiseman, had declined to debrief Exide on the reasons behind their preference for foreign equipment." Exide asked for that session, but MGS would not even meet with it to discuss the reasons for refusing the Exide bid, even though it was \$160,000 less than that of Datasphere.

Fifth, the reasons for refusing, which were supplied in the briefing notes, I addressed earlier. In fact, the notes point out that the office of procurement policy could not judge the compatibility issue and, furthermore, found the issue of Exide's track record not as clear as MGS suggested. I can read those briefing notes from the Premier into the record if the minister wishes. I would be happy to do so, but I want to get through some of these points first because I am keeping in mind the chairman's admonition about time.

Clearly, looking at the case, it seems to violate the "objective and suitable manner" clause in the competitive purchasing policy. I would remind the minister that if we look at item 2 under his ministry's policy on competitive purchasing, the supply section, it states: "All interested suppliers shall be given fair opportunity to bid on government business and the selection of those suppliers invited to bid shall be conducted in an objective and equitable manner." I suggest to the minister this was not done in this case. His ministry has clearly violated its own guidelines.

3:50 p.m.

Sixth, the briefing notes for the Premier make the remark that Exide, both independently and through Inco, has a history of using the political route to enforce saleability. That is surely relevant to this particular tender, is it not?

The equipment Datasphere will supply will be produced in London, England, and will be shipped to Canada. Datasphere claims its bid will include 50 per cent Canadian content. If we really look at what that means, we are talking about federal and provincial sales taxes, markup from Datasphere, startup and commissioning, warranty and setting up, unloading and setting up, and a three-panel circuit board, which is basically very minor.

The Exide package will include much more Canadian content and, more to the point, it will include Canadian manufacturing content. This is what this ministry has blown. At this time when the government purports to buy Canadian, we have an opportunity not only to save the government money but also to create some manufacturing jobs in this province, yet this government blows money overseas.

The government has a specific policy related to Canadian preference in purchasing, but this ministry chooses to violate that policy. The issue is not so much one of price, but of a general preference. If the government is willing to provide a price preference to support and

encourage Canadian production, surely it should be good enough to do it in reality and not just in its speeches. That clearly has not been done in this case.

I find it very interesting to read the briefing notes into the record for you, Mr. Chairman, because this is the first time you have come across this interesting case. I guess somebody is in trouble for including them with the Premier's letter. I would like to read them into the record for the minister's benefit, although no doubt he has been given a copy by this time. This is exactly what the briefing notes on Exide Canada Inc. say:

"On January 14 Exide Canada Inc., Inco's electronic subsidiary, telexed Messrs. Davis, Jones, Gregory and Kennedy regarding the expected loss of a contract with the Ministry of Government Services to supply a \$263,834 uninterruptible power conversion system for Queen's Park computer facilities. The Honourable Mr. Grossman received a similar telex on January 19. Procurement policy began an investigation on January 20 and 21. UPCS equipment is critical to the operations of the Queen's Park computers.

"MGS sought tenders from Exide Canada and Datasphere Sales Ltd., agent for the imported Emerson electronics equipment, in September 1981. On January 7 MGS issued a purchase order to Datasphere Sales Ltd. at \$423,944. In choosing the higher-priced imported equipment, MGS cited . . ." I gave you those reasons, such as evidence of poor Exide track record, and I have dealt with each of those. It goes on to say, "MGS has purchased Exide equipment in a different configuration from the Downsview computer centre and has satisfactory performance." That is very interesting is it not, Mr. Chairman? Then it deals with the issues.

"MGS has opted on technical grounds to purchase imported equipment at a price premium of \$160,000 instead of the Canadian-manufactured product. Exide contends they were not informed of the issuance of a purchase order to Datasphere and loss of this contract will lead to a direct loss of jobs in the Mississauga plant and an indirect loss of jobs due to the implications of Ontario going elsewhere."

One wonders where the Mississauga members are today. One can see the kind of representation they and their constituents get, when their government blows away this many jobs in their own ridings.

Mr. Conway: Let the record show that Mr. Kennedy is here under the gallery.

Mr. Philip: I am sorry, is Mr. Kennedy here? I did not see him. He is over there. He is sitting in the gallery and that is quite often where he is—well, never mind.

It goes on: "Procurement policy has been unable to develop a definitive third-party option on the reliability of Exide equipment in the particular use MGS intends." That is interesting. "References cited by MGS regarding Exide's poor track record are not black and white, but some question of confidence remains and MGS officials are adamant that the risks involved in adopting Exide equipment in this particular use are too great." They do not say what they are and they admit they cannot define them, but they are too great according to the Premier. "The MGS officials, after consulting with Mr. Wiseman, have declined to debrief Exide on the reasons behind their preference for foreign equipment."

Here is the Premier; he knows all this; this is all in his briefing notes. He thinks nothing of it. It is fine that his ministry is behaving in this reprehensible, irresponsible manner. He thinks nothing of it and does not do anything about it. He is not even competent to deal with the issue. He happened to let somebody shove his briefing notes into the letter to the other company or otherwise we would not have found out about all this. He is not even capable of the coverup he is inadvertently doing.

"Exide, both independently and through Inco, has a history of using the political route to reinforce their saleability." Then it goes on to its conclusions. "Procurement policy has forced an internal review of this purchase. MGS is adamant that they will not withdraw their contract to Datasphere and decline to meet with Exide to debrief them on the purchase. Exide maintains this loss of contract will be a contributing factor to the layoffs and the attached response from Mr. Grossman and the draft response for the Premier's office are based on accepting MGS's position."

Here we have a situation where this government violates, or apparently violates, its own rules of conduct regarding competitive purchasing. It squanders Ontario jobs and then it goes on television and tells everybody to buy Canadian. When it comes to the crunch, not only do they not buy Canadian but they go and buy from foreigners at a higher cost than it would take to buy from a Canadian company. To make matters worse, it is not just this ministry that knows about it. The Premier knows about it. He has a full briefing on it, as is evident from the

briefing notes, and this nonsense still takes place.

To make it even worse, the Conservative member whose riding it is in is briefed on it, or is obviously sent some letters about it, and we see no evidence of his acting on it either. I say to the minister I hope he has some response to this.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. I know there are no time restraints in regard to supply. I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Hon. Mr. Wiseman: I see why the honourable member did not ask this in question period. I would like to clear up a few things. There were the two bids as the member mentioned. One of the bidders, Emerson, did not total its bid, but that is not irregular. Some do not. The figures were there.

At the bid openings we usually read out who the bidders are. We reserve the right to make sure all the people bidding have bid fully on everything they have been asked to bid on in the tender. We usually reserve the right for around 30 days or up to 30 days—sometimes it goes a bit longer and sometimes it is shorter—to give a decision as to which one we think it should be. In all cases that come across my desk, particularly those where there is a difference in what would appear at first glance as being cheaper, I call the ministry officials in and ask for the reasons. In this particular case I did the same.

4 p.m.

The system we have at the George Drew building is one of the largest computers that is available in Canada. My experts in this field tell me the basic difference between these two systems and the difference between the two companies is that one company—the one my friend has mentioned, Exide—has built 60-cycle units but has very little knowledge, I am told, of the 415-cycle unit that is needed to make sure there is no interruption of power at the George Drew building. I hope we never have to use it, but it is there if we do.

He mentioned they had sold one to Alberta. I could be wrong but I believe, and the honourable member can check this out, that is a 60-cycle unit and not a 415-cycle unit.

I also understand that when one takes space into consideration, as we have done with Exide, the battery storage area would have had to have been enlarged because it is a different type of system from the present one and requires more space. In that building—as anyone who has visited there knows, and I think some of my critics have—the space is very limited.

Also taken into consideration on this was the fact that we have had good maintenance done by Emerson. I am told Emerson has serviced well what it has sold us. My experts also say Emerson equipment is a much better product technically.

The bottom line on this is that my experts—and I am no expert in this field—say the two systems are comparable in price, although the performance and capability of Exide equipment appear to be the outstanding problems. I am sure anyone who knows computers is in agreement that we have to be sure we have that uninterrupted power if and when we need it there. From what they tell me, when one takes all things into consideration, the costs are very similar.

I have run through a lot of notes I had. The member kept saying this government and my ministry were not buying Canadian and were not interested in a procurement policy. I say that we very much are, to put that on the record. The member—the one from the north with the big smile on his face, the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes)—knows when I spoke on this in the estimates that I was astounded to find that in the mechanical and electrical areas we had difficulty in buying more than 40 or 50 per cent of our mechanical and electrical requirements in Canada. We have been working quite closely with what is now the Ministry of Industry and Trade Development to try to overcome that.

In areas where we see we cannot buy Canadian at present, we encourage people to get into that field. We are working quite closely with the Ministry of Industry and Trade Development on that, as we were with the former ministry. We have asked our architects when they are designing buildings or, when the buildings are being built, to make sure they try where possible to order the Canadian equivalent. Some of our Canadian products perhaps have not been tested as much as some from other countries, but how are they ever going to get a chance if we do not allow them to try them?

We are doing that, and we are hoping, as I know all honourable members are, that perhaps that 45 per cent—I believe that is the right percentage; I could be corrected—will be a higher percentage when we are doing our estimates this year. We are doing our bit. We are buying Canadian where we can, but bear in mind we had to think of the service, the uninterrupted power and the fact that this company had done a 415-cycle installation

previously. I am told the other one did not have the expertise at this time. I hope I have answered that question satisfactorily.

Mr. Philip: No, the minister has not answered the question. Rather than estimates, or perhaps in addition to estimates, ministry officials may enjoy appearing before the public accounts committee to answer a few more questions.

The competitive purchasing procedure clearly states that when special circumstances make performance, design, comparative or generic specification impractical, a written explanation authorized by a senior official of the ministry shall be attached to the requisition and a copy retained for file for audit purposes. Can the minister tell us whether that was done?

Hon. Mr. Wiseman: I will have to check that. There was one point I missed in my remarks; I would like to check out the statement the member made that I had told my ministry staff not to do the debriefing with Exide. I think I have a pretty good memory, and I really do not recall ever saying that to any of my staff, but I will be glad to check it out. I firmly believe that anyone who is not successful should be informed and I do not know why Exide was not.

I believe the statement also was made that Exide did not know until the Premier's letter in February. I understand that is wrong, that Mr. Sly had told them when they phoned. I believe the date was January 17, or close to that. I did say to our people that was not good enough, that they should have been notified before that time that they were not the successful bidder.

Mr. Philip: Can the minister answer whether at any time he considered having a third, impartial party examine the two bids, knowing full well there was a Canadian company with some expertise in the field, that it had come in considerably lower than the American-owned company and that jobs would be created in Britain rather than in Ontario? Did it not occur to the minister to have a third party evaluate the bids in the light of the buy-Canadian policy and advertising of this government?

Hon. Mr. Wiseman: As I told the honourable member, I did notice that, and at first appearance it would seem that Exide was cheaper until one considered the storage of batteries would have to be changed, the battery system would have to be changed. If memory serves me, when one added that cost to the difference in the bids, what was an apparent saving in going to Exide brought them up to be quite competitive.

When looked at from the standpoint of the

experts in Government Services, the one had a good service contract and had worked with a 415-cycle unit before whereas the other, if it had worked with it at all, had done so in only a limited way; they had always been with a 60-cycle unit. I am sure all honourable members know a bit about computers and you cannot have them going down in power or you get into all sorts of trouble; that is very important. And, as I said before, it is one of the largest computer terminals in Canada, if not the largest.

Mr. Philip: That is a nice rationalization but I like to deal in the real world. I wonder whether the minister can supply us with those additional cost figures and let us examine them. Has the minister supplied those costs to the two companies concerned so they can both comment on them?

4:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Wiseman: I think we have been very fair. When the honourable member's researcher asked to come over, I had nothing to hide in our ministry. We do everything above board. We gave him two of our chief people to sit down and discuss this with and go over the facts. He has had ample time to go over those.

If this was such an important matter—as I said, I have been expecting this question in the House since the House started. If the member for Lake Nipigon had not come in and intervened, it probably would have been ruled out of order, because we are talking about parkway belts. We have answered it for him. His people were over and had a look. I do not know what else we can do.

This decision was taken on the advice of the experts and I am sure the honourable member who asked the question is no more of an expert when it comes to computers than I am. We have to rely on our experts. We cannot have all the answers ourselves. I am convinced we did the right thing in this instance.

Mr. Chairman: Is that the minister's final comment?

Hon. Mr. Wiseman: Yes.

Mr. Philip: I would like to make a favourable remark about you, Mr. Chairman, because I am sure you have the intelligence to have ruled in the same way you were assisted in ruling by the arguments from the member for Lake Nipigon. You would have seen the fairness in what we were trying to do.

At the same time, I simply want to ask the question again: Were the additional costs supplied to the two companies? Yes or no?

Mr. Chairman: The minister has no further comment.

Mr. Kennedy: Mr. Chairman, the member for Etobicoke said the Mississauga members showed disinterest in this and did not participate, which is the furthest thing from the truth. It was of considerable concern to the members, because each of the Mississauga members does what he can to look after the people he represents. This includes the industry in the community. It was discussed by the three members from Mississauga with the minister, and it came to the attention of the Premier.

It was a matter of deep concern. We regretted that the award could not be made to Exide. The explanation, as given by the minister, covers the situation as it was, regrettable as it is. The letter from the Premier was the conclusion of a very careful reconsideration. That was taken with the support of the three members for Mississauga. I want to correct the record as it has been inaccurately expressed by the member for Etobicoke.

Hon. Mr. Wiseman: I took it for granted that everyone knew both the member for Mississauga South (Mr. Kennedy) and the member for Mississauga North (Mr. Jones) had talked to me. I would not want to let them think the member for Etobicoke was the only one who asked the question.

Vote 503 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes consideration of the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of Government Services.

Under the agreement by the House leaders, it is my understanding that the Ministry of Health supplementary estimates are next. The minister is present.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH

On vote 3202, institutional health services program; item 4, institutional care services:

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Chairman, I have a short statement. The proposal for our supplementary estimates this afternoon is to seek the approval of this House for an additional \$88.8 million for our hospital system. This request, together with the \$118 million which the House granted in supplementary estimates last December, brings the 1981-82 appropriation of my ministry to more than \$2.8 billion for hospital services.

Today's appropriation has helped us meet most of the deficits incurred by the public

hospitals of Ontario as well as costs related to the expanded role of Providence Villa in chronic care.

In responding to requests for additional funds, we have developed a very detailed set of criteria to ensure that all hospitals are fairly treated. One of the criteria we look at is the volume of growth in life support system programs. Here I refer to such program as neonatal intensive care and dialysis for cancer treatment. These have needed more funding to prevent them being reduced in scope or volume.

Improving service efficiencies in hospital operations is an ongoing concern in our system. Certain studies were required to look at effective reorganization of hospital departments, sharing of services between hospitals and the like. These studies are included in the criteria guidelines.

The ministry has also considered the growth in the general reutilization of hospital services as justifiable within our criteria. We cite, for example, the rising cost from the greater use of high technology. Specifically, to cite one example, seven new computerized axial tomography scanners have been approved for our hospitals. Five are in Toronto—at Wellesley, Mount Sinai, Scarborough General, North York and Etobicoke hospitals—another is at Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa and one is at Kitchener-Waterloo General. When these CAT scanners are in place, it will mean there will be a total of 24 in hospitals throughout Ontario.

When hospitals encounter a decline in revenue from uninsured patients—those either outside the province or the country or whose treatment is paid by other agencies such as the Workmen's Compensation Board and the Department of Veterans Affairs—the ministry applies its criteria and makes up those revenue shortfalls as well.

In addition, the ministry has awarded additional funds for unusual salary adjustments, as we always have, and chronic bed conversions. We agreed to the transfer of 224 extended care beds from the Ministry of Community and Social Services to my ministry for use by chronic care patients at Providence Villa in Toronto. The cost of the conversion is included in today's supplementary estimates.

Mr. McClellan: Those are 224 new beds, as the ministry's predecessor used to describe them.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am giving you the facts, as I always do—just the facts.

Mr. McClellan: I understand. They are new chronic care beds, right?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We understand perfectly; I am not sure you do.

I expect these additional funds will be sufficient to deal with any serious deficit or other problem faced by the hospitals in the fiscal year that is now ending. I should emphasize to the House that we will, however, continue to respond to problems that emerge as our hospitals complete their year-end reports.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Chairman, in the absence of my colleague the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Coppins), who was called away to a meeting and was not able to be here, I rise in my place to offer some comments on behalf of the official opposition.

This is my first opportunity to communicate formally with the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), and I would be remiss if I did not take this first opportunity to congratulate him upon his new ministerial responsibilities. Some time before your arrival here, Mr. Chairman, I had the pleasure of joining with the member in a public forum in this fine city when, as I recall, he was like the rest of us—merely a private member—and one of the issues of public interest and concern affected his electoral district and a particular public institution, namely, Doctors' Hospital.

4:20 p.m.

I have always been very impressed by the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick. I have watched with great admiration his upward mobility and the steady, serious determined way in which he has marched in that direction. Like many on this side, we expect to see that upward mobility culminate with the grand prize not too many years hence.

In concluding my best wishes to the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick, I thought at that time that he fought so very valiantly—against the directive of the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller), who was then the Minister of Health—to countermand the order of the Minister of Health. As has been the case in many other situations and on many other occasions with that particular colleague of his, as I hear privately, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick won the day.

I thought then, those six years ago, that it would be fitting if he should some day become the Minister of Health. Now that he has, I feel he will want to join in those enthusiastic battles in which he engaged so happily some six years ago.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: This time he is going to close it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, he isn't.

Mr. Conway: Let the record show that the Minister of Education, as she smilingly leaves her place and the House, said, "This time he is going to close it."

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That was an unidentified member.

Mr. Conway: Let me do the identification. I will leave it to the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick perhaps to speak of that another time.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You have been doing great so far.

The Deputy Chairman: Speak to the estimates.

Mr. Conway: I don't think, Mr. Chairman, you would want me in any way to slow down the good words and best wishes to your friend the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick as he takes on his important new responsibilities.

In concluding, I want to say that in so far as his new responsibilities are concerned, I have not yet seen any of our high-priced pundits note that, in the great battle I hear raged within the oak-panelled confines of the executive council, the member for Brampton (Mr. Davis) settled that great battle within the economic part of cabinet not in favour of his youthful friend from St. Andrew-St. Patrick but, very interestingly, apparently in favour of the beleaguered Treasurer.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: He solved it in favour of the hospitals and health care.

Mr. Conway: At any rate, I say best wishes and good luck to the minister.

I have a couple of questions relating to the supplementary estimates. They are substantial, although in relative terms, given the \$2.8-billion hospital budget, I suppose they are not unheard of in terms of their requests. Will the minister table in this committee at his earliest convenience a line-by-line, or at least detailed breakdown of the appropriation we are now asked to vote for? In other words, can he indicate specifically how and where the \$88,772,300 will be spent?

If I heard his initial comments correctly, I presume it will go, as it says, by and large to the public hospital sector. We have something in the neighbourhood of 253 of those institutions. I presume most of that money, with the exception of the chronic care that he mentioned, will find its way to a number of those public hospitals. I

am interested to know whether he will share with us the specifics of the appropriation. Which hospitals are getting how much and for which budget year do those moneys apply?

I personally want to see that information at the minister's convenience and I hope within the time allocated to supplementary estimates in this committee of supply.

The other point I want to make is that I listened with interest to the minister when he was reading in very quiet tones. Like the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), I was having a little bit of difficulty hearing the minister, who I must admit in his early going, as a wise person would be counselled to do, has been mildly diffident. We have not seen that confident chutzpah for which he was so famous in earlier incarnations, although I fully expect that within very short order.

Mr. McClellan: He knows a mine field when he is walking on one.

Mr. Conway: I am sure the member for Bellwoods knows more of that than I, being the current Health critic for the New Democratic Party. I rather agree with him, if I might digress. God, the poor, poor minister. I do not wish him anything but comfort and good will in the job he now has. I would not in any way betray any confidence, because I think that would be improper, but I wish him well. This will prove, perhaps better than any previous assignment, whether he has that first ministerial mettle that undoubtedly many feel he has. It is certainly an interesting ministry into which he has strayed.

In his remarks he talked about well-developed criteria that have been developed by his ministry for dealing with budgetary difficulties at the public hospital level and in particular well-developed criteria to make additional payments to public hospitals that find themselves in difficulty from time to time.

Like the member for Bellwoods, I have been down this path before, and sometimes it has not been a very happy or productive promenade. I want to know whether the Minister of Health will table in this committee, at his earliest convenience, chapter and verse of this new list of well-developed criteria. He has a very full looking briefing book over there and I can almost feel that he wants to rip out the pages. He has a whole screed of criteria nicely set out that he would be happy to share with this committee.

Taking the minister up on his statement that there are well-developed criteria for the adjudication of these sometimes endless hospital appeals, will the Minister of Health share with

us at his earliest convenience chapter and verse of those well-developed criteria?

Might I be so bold as to ask the new Minister of Health whether he or anybody in his ministry has been so reckless as to share with the boards and/or administrators of the 253 public hospitals in this province the well-developed criteria for these budgetary appeals?

It just so happens that last week in my constituency I had the opportunity of discussing with a variety of hospital officials their current budgetary relationships with the Ministry of Health. I got rather an interesting report.

At the risk of being a bit like the Premier, I will become unbearably parochial and ask him to look specifically at the Pembroke Civic Hospital situation which is of some immediate concern to the local member and that particular board and where, quite frankly, the reaction to the budgetary situation at the current time is not positive. They are projecting cumulative deficits from 1980 to 1982 of something in the neighbourhood of \$450,000. I am wondering what kind of help they can expect in addition to the \$79,000 that was paid out about eight months ago. Dr. Dyer has kindly undertaken to bring that matter to my attention once the review has been made.

I found it interesting, in dealing with other hospitals in my part of the province, that in some cases there was a rather positive response about the way in which the ministry had performed.

I thought the most interesting thing about what a couple of these not unsatisfied hospital people said was: "We have no idea how these people in Health function. As to what the rules are, we don't have a clue. It seems in this instance we happened to have come out fairly well, but God knows how or why. We are happy with the condition in which we now find ourselves, but if there is a set of rules, criteria that are to be relied on for guidance at our level, at this end of the discussion, we don't know what they are."

4:30 p.m.

Given that intelligence, I was even more interested. As I said earlier, not all of this was unfavourable to the minister—the ministry I suppose I should say—although initially I hear they are very well disposed to the new minister. Let us face it, the hospital and health community must realize its importance when two putative Premiers make it their second or last stop along the way. It tells them something

about the importance of this department. I want to stress to the honourable minister—

Mr. McClellan: Or it could be a graveyard.

Mr. Conway: I will leave that to the more funereal capacities of the member for Bellwoods.

In respect of the well-developed criteria, can the minister indicate whether (a) those well-developed criteria can be entered as evidence in this committee and (b) those well-developed criteria have ever in a fit of rashness, boldness or indiscretion been communicated to the hospital boards and administrators at the other end of this equation?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Feel free to go ahead.

Mr. McClellan: Do you have a reply?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Of course I do.

Let me begin by thanking my good friend, the deputy leader of the Liberal Party, for his mostly kind remarks. I do appreciate the sentiments he expressed in the opening part of his remarks. May I assure him that notwithstanding how he reads this minister's initial—I forget the words he used, but he indicated I was not being quite as vituperative and as forceful as I was in previous incarnations. I have always believed one has to adopt a style appropriate to the problems one faces from time to time.

Mr. Conway: Are we to conclude it is just the passing of Bernie Ostry that has made you so—that may be a low blow.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: As I reflect back—

Mr. Conway: Don't you think, by the way, that Bernie Ostry and Gord Walker will make a good team?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No more charming than your current leader and your former leader.

The Deputy Chairman: I call upon the honourable minister to respond to the supplementary estimates questions and I ask the member for Renfrew North to cease and desist in interrupting.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If the chairman will allow me, I should say to my friend that on this side of the House these inner discussions that go on between my colleagues and I within the big oak walls—or whatever he referred to—are indeed the way we stay in office. Lest you interpret the activities on this side and try to identify how things have worked out, I can say for myself I was delighted to assume this ministry. I look upon it as a very important responsibility, as I know my friend looks upon it. To pay proper respect to my predecessor in

this portfolio, I assume a ministry in what I consider to be fine shape with excellent civil servants and with a fine record in dealing with the problems of the past five years.

The problems of the next five years or so are the problems I am most intensely interested in and we are well poised to address them. Which is a long way of saying, Sean, if you guys get out of hand, I will get nasty too.

Mr. McClellan: We look forward to it. Is that a promise?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, because I know the member will show a lot of good judgement, fairness and openmindedness.

The Deputy Chairman: The minister will respond to the point that was raised.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: With respect to the questions raised by my friend from Renfrew North, yes, information will be available as to the specifics of where the money went. The estimates for this coming year will reflect much of that when they are tabled shortly. As well, all of the hospitals involved know that they have or have not received the money.

It may be helpful to the member to know, by category, where the \$86 million was spent on these hospital deficits. In 1980-81, the growth factor in life support programs accounted for \$9.1 million; management fees were \$1.6 million; the straight picking up of deficits where we thought there were problems in utilization or other problems that were beyond the control of the hospital that contributed to the shortfall of revenue, \$5.3 million other miscellaneous ones were \$900,000; for a total of \$16.9 million.

In 1981-82, the rollover of the life support funding we had given in 1980-81 accounted for \$10.2 million. The new life support programs and the growth of those programs amounted to another \$15.7 million. The growth of other new programs introduced in the previous year accounted for \$20.9 million. Utilization growth and unanticipated declines in revenue accounted for another \$16.2 million.

That brought the total for 1981-82 to \$63 million which, added to the 1980-81 figure of \$16.9, brought us to \$79.9 million. The current reviews—which were the result of the appeal process in which we invited the hospitals to participate if they were unhappy with the breakout given those programs and the funding we provided—accounted for another \$6.7 million being allocated to the various hospitals, making a total of \$86.6 million.

As to whatever information may have been

related to my colleague about the criteria, I guess I could make two points. First, I believe the criteria were made eminently clear to the Ontario Hospital Association and the various administrators who have been in to see the ministry. Second, while one has to have a set of rules, there will also be—and in my view of government there always should be—a factor built in for some flexibility. If you do not exercise that flexibility, you have too stringent a system—one that results in inequities.

For example, sometimes people say they are not sure what the rules are. Some administrators will say, "I do not think hospital X should have got this when you did not give it to me." They would read that as not knowing what the rules are. However, we listen to special pleas which are made by hospitals from time to time and respond to them. The allegation that we do not know what the rules are is, in my view, an unfair one, but it is one that administrators of hospital boards are allowed to make because we are trying to address different problems in different hospitals.

I should also remind my friend that all of this grew out of a desire by the hospitals to move away from line-by-line budgeting, where we did indeed scrutinize intensely each line of every hospital's operation, to a global system which allowed the hospitals to have more flexibility in their operations. Consequently, some could say we do not know what the rules are, which I said earlier would be unfair. We have let them know that they have more flexibility in our global budgets to do more of the things they think are needed for their own hospitals. I think that is a good thing.

I might deal for a moment with the funding category, since my friends from Bellwoods and Renfrew North both have walked down this road many times before. Maybe I could give them some guideposts which were on the road but which they did not notice the last six or seven times they walked it.

4:40 p.m.

Under management consultant fees—

Mr. Conway: Don't make me go to the files and look up your 1976 speeches.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I have got them all and they are all fine speeches.

Management consultant fees—

Mr. Conway: What you said about Frank Miller—I would not have imagined in my worst moments—

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You did imagine them and they were your worst moments, because I did not say it.

Let me deal with four of the headings I referred to earlier: management consultant fees, revenue shortfalls, life support systems and unavoidable utilization increases.

As to management consultant fees, the ministry wishes hospitals to have at hand the best management consultants available to continue to run their hospitals in the most efficient manner. Many hospitals decide to go the route of hiring management consultants and we thought where they incurred fees to do so it would be justifiable for the ministry to pick up the cost. That has resulted in many cases of reorganization of departments and rationalization of services with other hospitals.

I have read the column of my friend from Renfrew North in the last little while in which he talks about the situation in Pembroke where there is some talk of rationalizing laundry facilities, if I am not mistaken. That is the sort of thing that may ultimately make sense and save us all some money without affecting health care and bringing up some more money for the good burghers of Pembroke. So I am sure you will understand management consultant fees and the kind of thing consultants can produce.

On revenue shortfall we are talking about the difference between the actual revenue received and the estimated revenue projected that the hospital initially submitted at the start of the year. We try to determine what the net ministry liability for that year will be and what that hospital will have to operate on for that year.

Here is an example of some of the things that happen, particularly in the Ottawa area. Some of those hospitals anticipated revenue coming in from out-of-province patients, but now that Quebec has improved some of its facilities there turned out to be fewer patients coming over to use the hospitals on our side of the border. Thus the revenue projections fell short for some hospitals close to the border areas and that was something the ministry also felt was a revenue shortfall that should be picked up by the ministry.

As to life support systems we are talking here about the advent of new and better technology, which more and more people should have the benefit of—they should not be restricted by the unavailability of funds. So funding was provided for renal dialysis, oncology, chemotherapy, neonatal intensive care and pacemakers, to name some. All of these are life support systems

and those things were funded where hospitals undertook those programs.

Finally, unavoidable utilization increases refers to those cases where hospitals were serving populations with particularly high age factors. For one reason or another there was a utilization increase which was not anticipated by either the hospital or the ministry. That was deemed to be an unanticipated and unavoidable utilization increase and that also was picked up by the ministry.

So those are the general criteria within which we work. Although one always finds some administrators and chairmen of boards and members of the profession who think we should have different criteria and we should have applied them in a different fashion in their own hospitals, I think by and large the hospitals have been well served by this request for and this application of the \$86.6 million.

Mr. Conway: We have too much regard for the minister's executive toughness to want to long endure the kind of bafflegab that was centrepiece to that supplementary answer. You are a highly efficient, executive, politicized member and are paired with a new deputy minister whose qualifications might, with all due respect to Mr. Scott, be considered parallel in this antiseptic unpolitical senior Ontario public service of ours—about which Mr. Segal writes in the learned journals of the land, a subject for another day.

I would say two things in response to that answer. I could take and would want to take a very narrow traditional view of these supplementary estimates. If I wished to play that role, I might ask that the minister submit to this committee a specific breakdown of this appropriation. I very much appreciate what he said about the generic categories of 3.6 per cent here and 12.9 per cent there. That is all very good and helpful. I appreciate that and will look at the answer when it comes out in Hansard and analyse more carefully what it says. But what I want to know about is this 88 and some odd million dollars we are asked to vote on.

The minister has come here, as he should, to make that request of this assembly through this committee of supply. I know generally speaking what he wants. He has listed the categories into which this money will fall, but I want to know who specifically is getting this \$88 million.

What you told me about the appeal procedure was really quite incredible. At one point, I thought I heard you say, "And you know if people out there who have made a request to us

have no money, they know they are not going to get any."

I do not see some who soldiered and suffered long and hard, such as the member for Mississauga South (Mr. Kennedy) who has left the House for a short time, but some of us here, such as the member for Bellwoods, went through a couple of special references in the social development committee involving this matter. I would not want to take you through that painful path again. One of the great questions on which we spent a lot of time was this whole mechanism for which the ministry has come to the House today to seek \$88 million more. I do not find the matter has been any more illuminated today than it was back in 1976 or 1978 or indeed, 1980 when we looked at it.

I hope I am making myself clear when I ask if the minister can tell us who is getting the \$88 million. Is the member for Wentworth (Mr. Dean) able to go home tonight and say that a hospital in his riding is going to get some? Is the member for Durham-York (Mr. Stevenson) going to be able to leave this committee knowing that the Uxbridge hospital—if it exists; I do not know whether it does or not, undoubtedly so—will get some? Can we share this information with members of this committee, all of whom have come here with great anticipation to know about this \$88 million the ministry is going to spread across this important social service network. Who is going to get this money? How are they going to get it? Is there a list available that would tell committee members before they vote on the appropriation where the disbursements are going to go?

I appreciate what the minister has told us about the generic divisions—so much for this and so much for that—but what I want to know is who is getting it and why they are getting it. To share a private political enthusiasm, one of the reasons I want to know about who is getting what is so that I can go to Newcastle or I can go to Bowmanville or to Orono and say to the recipients of this largess if they should appear on the list, "Now, the Minister of Health stood in his place in the committee of supply on March 29 and said, 'You have received \$64,025 in consideration of your appeal of your 1980-81 budgetary allocation.'"

"The minister beat his breast proudly and said, 'This is keeping the promise and undoubtedly you good people will be happy with this and accept it as full settlement.'" I want to be able to go to the chairman of the board of the Orono district hospital and/or the Woodstock General

and say: "Do you agree with the minister? Does this satisfy your request? Do you see this in Brockville General Hospital in or in Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital? Do you see this as a complete and satisfactory adjudication of the budgetary request?"

I cannot and will not take the word of the honourable minister or his many minions who provide the data on which he relies.

4:50 p.m.

It may be that the good people of Brockville and Woodstock and Galt are very happy with the results of the appeal, but I will not be satisfied until I get to Galt, amid the splendour of that town, and ask the members of the board if they accept the minister's adjudication of their budgetary appeal and about the criteria.

I am reminded that the new Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell)—no doubt in response to the very stinging criticism offered by no less a personage than the distinguished Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food who not long ago said, "Of course, Ontario has had no agriculture policy since the days of Bill Stewart, you should know that"—the Minister of Agriculture and Food stood in his place and with a marvellous, multi-page, green-covered document trotted out the new guiding policies. What passes for policy in this day and age is quite astonishing, but he tried; God bless him, he tried.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It was as good as the Ministry of Industry and Tourism stuff used to be.

Mr. Conway: I must say to the minister that on many occasions he has done much better. It is because of the high standards he set in his earlier departmental roles that I do not want, in weeks to come, to listen to the very tough executive Premier-in-the-making, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick, stand in his place and recite the statistical profile that has been generated by the staff and recited by every Minister of Health since my arrival in this place seven years ago. I want to know what those well-developed criteria are.

The minister said—and the member for Bellwoods heard him say it—there were well-developed criteria that were the new framework of his operation. Then in his supplementary answer he said, "But of course the keystone of the new criteria is flexibility." Indeed it is, and how many people in the hospital sector in this province, from Windsor to Cornwall, have had the painful lesson of that flexibility? I want to

reiterate the message of people who are not unhappy about the adjudication of their budgetary disputes but who, after it is all over, have no more knowledge about these well-developed criteria than when they started weeks or months before.

I think it is important for the Minister of Health to put flesh onto the bare bones of his initial statement, to not leave this committee, anxious as it is, to give speedy passage to this \$88 million appropriation. It is incumbent upon him as an honoured parliamentarian to tell us exactly where this \$88-million is going to find itself. Which of the 253 public hospitals?

I do not want my friend the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) to have to go home before Easter without knowing which of the great health care institutions in his electoral district will be offered this kind of money. I want to know who in the province is going to receive how much in hard dollars. If the minister wishes to categorize it in the overall, fine; that is added information that oppositionists thrive upon.

I do not want to have to leave this place without having from the minister a nice, clear, decisive statement of those well-developed criteria that will hopefully not only match the recent efforts of the former Minister of Health, now in Agriculture and Food, but outdo him as he sometimes and, dare I say, often does in these matters. I would hope that today, or soon, the minister will give me that information, without which I find it difficult to pass a considered opinion about this appropriation which he has come to request.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Minister, some flesh on the bones?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Difficult, but not impossible.

I will talk about the philosophy behind the proposition the member has put for a second, if he will think about it for a moment. I know his reputation for spending a great deal of time thinking about these matters. Having dealt with him on the Doctors' Hospital issue he referred to, I know he does do that kind of homework from time to time.

On the life support heading, just to take one: There is no hospital in this province that ought to be satisfied with the ministry writing out a list of what we consider to be life support programs. I have in front of me nine examples, six of which I can pronounce. No hospital, patient or legislator in this province should be satisfied with a ministry list of what it considers to be all of the

life support programs it is prepared to fund for this current year.

Lord knows, there will be a new life support program developed and we will want to have it implemented in-year. We will protect our right not only to implement that new life support program, but to come here for supplementary estimates and hope this assembly will think that, in the interests of patient care in this province, we ought to get those supplementary estimates. I am sure the honourable member would share this with me.

We would also want to be sure we had some control over the system so that a new procedure which we decided ought to be supported in-year was not suddenly adopted by every hospital up and down University Avenue in Toronto. It just would not make financial sense. We would have to protect our fiscal integrity by making sure there was not a proliferation.

It is the kind of thing we do with the computerized axial tomography scanning situation. We do it through the district health councils to make sure there are sufficient numbers out there and so on. To that extent, there has to be that flexibility in the system. The administrators understand that, respect that and demand that. Far from not accepting it, they demand we have that flexibility.

When the hospitals came to see us on the appeal process under the category of revenue shortfalls, to take another category, they wanted to be able to argue there were revenue shortfalls not included under the two I have outlined here, but were real and unanticipated revenue shortfalls. Perhaps the member would feel more comfortable if I brought him a list of 15, executively drawn and totally specific with a high degree of, to use a favourite word of my friend, specificity involved—

Mr. Conway: Joe Clark belongs to you.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Okay, if Pierre Trudeau belongs to you; we will use that tomorrow in question period.

Mr. Conway: Absolutely; I will take him any day.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You have him.

Mr. Boudria: We do not want to trade.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Neither do we; not on the last poll.

That specificity which he seeks under revenue shortfalls would be exactly the kind of thing the administrators would complain about when they come to see us. As they would say: "You people in the Ministry of Health cannot possibly

anticipate everything that is going to happen in the 250 hospitals in the province. In my hospital, I had a very unusual circumstance."

Dr. Dyer, Mr. Bill Bain and others who are responsible in this area do a magnificent job of applying those general criteria, which must be general, listening to what those administrators say and responding when we ought to respond to things that we cannot and do not have the capability of anticipating. You cannot anticipate them. Even your leader cannot anticipate them. To take the point to a ridiculous extreme, even your former leader could not have anticipated all those things happening in the hospitals.

My friend said he would like to know where all the money went. In the tradition which I believe I have tried to establish in this assembly of making all information in my hands available to my friends across the way, if you will sit, I will now read out 253 hospitals with the percentage increases which account for the \$86 million we are talking about today. Are you ready?

Mr. Conway: Sure, go ahead.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I wish you had not said that because I do not want to read 250.

Mr. McClellan: Why don't you table them?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I will be happy to table them if my friend will accept it and pass the estimates before I get enough Xerox copies for all of you. It is available to you. The answer is, you can have it. I will be here for question period and we can discuss these things.

5 p.m.

Mr. Conway: I want to conclude my point on this. I appreciate what you have said about administrators and I have come here to speak on behalf of some of them. I want to put you in the position of a member of this assembly. We are brought here to entertain an \$88-million appropriation. When we stand in our places I think we have every right to say, "Mr. Minister, on behalf of the executive council, you have come here to make a proposal to this assembly, one that we are quite prepared to consider." Then when we ask, "Can you to the best of your ability give us a breakdown of specifically where that \$88 million goes and who is getting how much for what purposes?" surely that is not an impossible or outrageous request to make in committee of supply.

If a minister of the crown is unwilling or unable to give us that in committee of supply, what in the name of common sense is this whole parliamentary charade about? That is the key

point I want to make. When you come to ask for \$88 million more, you have to expect us to say, "What for, Mr. Minister? What specifically is that appropriation going to go for?" I think it is incumbent upon you to table how that breaks down if you cannot do it at the point of request. That is, as I understand it, the function of a good working Legislature.

I say again when you make the assertion, when you state the claim that there are well-developed criteria, I want to tell you, from my experience of five years as a member of the health committee, we have been told that many times before. It was never our sense, on the basis of talking with the other side, that a very well-developed set of criteria was ever understood by members of the committee and, just as important, by the hospital community out there.

I listened carefully to what you said. I appreciate your coming here with a statement, but I am not happy about the fact I do not have in front of me a list of those well-developed criteria you advertised. Before I pass these estimates, which I am obviously going to have to do and am quite prepared to do, given the department we are dealing with and the generally stated aims you have, I do not have any more of a breakdown than what we have been told. It really is a castration of the important role this assembly is supposed to play in committee of supply.

Mr. Riddell: He's right on.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You were not even here for his speech. Whatever he said, he is right on.

I say to my friend I know he served on a couple of parliamentary committees with me in the 1975-77 time frame. I think he would acknowledge that I share with him, to be fair, a great deal of respect for this parliamentary system, the role of the committee system and the role of every member of this assembly. That is why I am saying to the member, notwithstanding the speech he just gave, which would leave the impression I just said no to his request, I said yes to his request. I agree with him, he should have that information, if at all possible, both with regard to the criteria and where the specific money is going.

Let there be any misunderstanding, the criteria have been no secret. You may think they might be more specific. I cannot go into the argument any more than I have already. All the hospitals knew that. Your perception is they do not understand it well enough or are not sure enough. I must say mine is different, but I hear what the member said and, as always, will

consider his comments as we review this process during this year.

I will certainly raise them with the Ontario Hospital Association and see if the OHA shares his view that more specificity is required in laying out the criteria. If it shares that view, we will have another chat about that in this assembly.

Mr. Conway: Remember what you said about Frank's famous regression analysis?

The Deputy Chairman: Let us have some following of order. The minister has the floor and is responding. There are others to participate in this debate.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I might also say to the member for Renfrew North that with regard to the listing of where the moneys are going, because of the particular point in the year when the hospital budgets have not yet been closed off, we will not know for some period of time, at least another two months, until the hospitals themselves know with certainty what their actual 1981-82 deficits are going to be.

They are all projecting now, and there is no question they are doing what ministries have been known to do and what other applicants and supplicants to the government are known to do. They are rather generous in their estimates of what their deficits are likely to be. Each administrator is obviously doing what good administrators do, and that is not understating his estimate of what his deficit is going to be but, if anything, erring on the high side in order to protect himself and his facility. So that you all understand when you hear stories about what the deficits of the hospitals are, the hospitals themselves are still projecting at this point in time and it will be several months until the 1981-82 net figures are in and the deficits are real deficits.

That is part of the reason why, as we come on March 29 for these supplementary estimates, there remains in our figures a little bit of net uncertainty with regard to the final column I have here that says, Projected Remaining Combined Deficits, because in some cases that column will prove to be inaccurate. Had we been going for supplementary estimates two or three months from today, I can say with absolute assurance, giving this House my sincere guarantee, because I do believe in getting information out and making it available and I would rather you have it than not have it, I would rather be in a position to talk about specifics than have an endless dialogue on

generalities. I would prefer that you had them, and it is because of that single time frame we are dealing in that you do not have these figures. I am speaking for this administration under this ministry.

You will have these figures the next time we come for supplementary estimates, all the figures with regard to where the money is going, which hospitals are getting it, what their percentage increase is and what their actual deficit is for this year. All these figures will be available to you, provided the time frame makes it possible. The next time around if we are in a time frame where it is impossible to provide the final deficit figures and the final allocation figures, then I will also be open enough with this House to table our best estimates, which will in some cases not be right, of where it is going to end up. I will shortly, as soon as we can prepare this for you, give it to you and table it.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, I would also like to start by welcoming the new minister to his new portfolio. I mean that quite sincerely.

Interjection.

Mr. McClellan: He is an old minister, but he is in a new portfolio. There was a sense, I think, in which it was urgently necessary that a new minister be put into that portfolio. I don't think anybody disputes that Dennis Timbrell was a strong and influential Minister of Health in this province, but I don't think anybody disputes either that he was in that portfolio too long. For the last part of his tenure, I don't know what he was doing but he was not addressing himself to some of the really urgent critical problems within the ministry.

Mr. Riddell: That does not augur well for the farmers.

Mr. McClellan: It certainly doesn't. It is true to say that our colleague from St. Andrew-St. Patrick has inherited a real set of serious problems, some of which are at the critical stage. I could quickly go through a catalogue of problems that are on our minds.

Since we are in the middle of the inquest into the third death at Queen Street Mental Health Centre, one is the problem of our mental health care system in Ontario. Our doctors have just completed a series of strikes; our hospitals in many parts of the province remain overcrowded, with people waiting in emergency corridors for active treatment beds; and we are on the verge, if not in the midst, of a crisis of care for elderly people.

Each of those four areas of concern are areas

I am afraid your predecessor ignored over the course of the last 18 months or so as the situation in each of those areas became worse and worse. Obviously we cannot deal in depth with each of those problems at supplementary estimates, and we look forward to the full estimates so we can have a full discussion of some of these problems. I want to touch on each of them.

5:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I can't wait for the eulogy if that is the welcome.

Mr. McClellan: It is a welcome. I mean that quite sincerely. I was trying to say, if I did not say it clearly, that it was time for a fresh presence in the Ministry of Health. I can see already that the minister is attempting to put out a number of fires, and there are a lot of fires over there. The minister has moved quickly in a couple of areas. It remains to be seen, however, how effective he can be. I suppose that will depend on how well he gets along with the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller).

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I always get along well with the Treasurer.

Mr. McClellan: That is very reassuring.

The minister made reference to a management consultants' report. Let me deal with the mental health concern first of all. Obviously I am not going to talk about provincial psychiatric hospitals per se, but each of the large general hospitals in Ontario has a psychiatric unit. One of our problems in dealing with health issues is that we are always dealing with systems, but when we deal with estimates we deal with a little piece of the whole. We are dealing with hospitals here, but we cannot deal with mental health concerns in isolation from the psychiatric units in general hospitals or in our provincial mental hospitals or the services that are based in the community.

This is a roundabout approach to what I hope will be a short expression of concern about the Peat Marwick report as it relates to the whole system, including our general hospitals. I will take a little trip down memory lane that the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) will probably shudder at. This is the McKinsey report. The minister was spared that agony. It was entitled *A Role Study of Lakeshore, Queen Street and Whitby Psychiatric Hospitals*.

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The member for Bellwoods has the floor. Would the member please continue and not allow these interrup-

tions to stop him from continuing the flow of his presentation.

Mr. McClellan: The McKinsey report starts with a disclaimer about which I simply want to remind the minister. It says: "We have recommended certain actions because we believe that timely decisions are required for the good of psychiatric patients. It was tempting to conclude that the roles of Lakeshore, Queen Street and Whitby should not be finalized until those of other care providers had been thoroughly studied."

Then there is an asterisk to a footnote that says, "An in-depth examination of the psychiatric units of general hospitals was explicitly excluded from the study by the terms of reference." In other words, the McKinsey authors at least acknowledged a defect of their role study in not being able, because of limited terms of reference, to look at the role of the psychiatric units in general hospitals as part of the total picture. They were not able to do that, so they proceeded to do what they were told to do.

That was in 1978 and, contrary to their recommendation, the Ministry of Health, with no rationalization at all other than the desire to save money, closed the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital. We had a series of hearings in the social development committee that went on for a couple of months with over 1,000 pages of transcript, which I do not urge anybody to read as it was so depressing. Hardly a single witness came before that committee in support of the ministry's course of action. I can think of only two. One was a doctor from Ottawa who, it turned out, referred all of his patients to the provincial hospital in Brockville, and the other was an agency which I will not name.

The recommendations of McKinsey were to keep the three hospitals; to redraw the boundaries of each of the provincial psychiatric hospitals in Metropolitan Toronto; and, finally, that each of the hospitals maintain a generalist role. By 1982, we no longer have the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital and we have a situation at Queen Street Mental Health Centre which is difficult to describe in restrained language.

It is clear the situation at Queen Street has deteriorated to the point where the safety of patients is at risk. I think the proof of that is in the fact that inquests are taking place. I will not prejudge the outcome of the current inquest where the evidence is now emerging. We have the evidence from two inquests already on record.

The problems at Queen Street are directly related to the government's closing Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital in 1979. Instead of increasing the number of beds at Queen Street over a 10-year period as McKinsey had recommended, the number of beds was doubled at Queen Street overnight, which blew the program at Queen Street into a complete shambles. The situation became so unmanageable and the programs deteriorated to such an extent that the medical staff apparently—this is one of the Peat Marwick findings—found themselves using drugs for purposes of restraint rather than for treatment. This has led now to the third inquest.

The Peat Marwick study, while delineating a number of important problems, heavily stressed the same defects as the McKinsey report, that it did not focus on the rest of the mental health care system but exclusively on problems within the Queen Street Mental Health Centre; and that it made a whole series of recommendations, some of which make sense and some of which do not. Among the latter particularly are the recommendations that failed to take into account that Queen Street is simply one part of a very complex interrelated network of programs and services for mentally ill people in Metropolitan Toronto.

I do not know if the minister has had the opportunity to review the report of Toronto's medical officer of health on Queen Street and the Peat Marwick report. I intend to bring it to his attention. The medical officer of health deals with precisely the concerns I have been trying to raise here and he does so concisely and I think very persuasively. Let me read his summary comments for the benefit of the minister:

"The Peat Marwick and Partners report is inadequate because it fails to identify the roots of the problem with Queen Street Mental Health Centre. The hospital is one element of a system of mental health care for the city and Metropolitan Toronto. Because the centre bears the weight of stresses or inadequacies elsewhere in the system, the symptoms of failure show up most dramatically here.

5:20 p.m.

"I will summarize briefly what the report failed to consider. First, the major problem at the centre is the enormous burden of admissions—nearly 4,000 a year. Those who have not worked in the psychiatric field cannot appreciate the effect of this. For example, a reasonable social work caseload is 25 active cases. It would require 80 social workers to service this popula-

tion even with only a six-month follow-up. It would require 100 psychiatrists to provide one hour per week of psychotherapy.

"Even with these resources, it would be virtually impossible in the turbulent ward atmosphere created by the constant coming and going to create a milieu conducive to recovery. Only the naive and inexperienced can believe that drugs alone are the answer to mental illness."

Let me digress for a second. In 1979, in the social development committee when we were looking at Queen Street, the information we had before us was that the most recent admissions data, which was for 1977-78, was 2,290 patients at Queen Street. Overnight that increased to 3,500 admissions and now it is higher than that. I do not have the exact figure in front of me but, as Dr. Macpherson says, it is close to 4,000 admissions.

This change took place in less than a year and a half. It is no mystery why things are so out of control at the Queen Street Mental Health Centre. It is a direct result of the policy of this government in 1979. The solutions put forward by Peat Marwick to this problem, I have to say, as somebody who knows a little about this area of policy, do not make a lot of sense. To centralize your admission service in a hospital that is already too big and already understaffed, so that you will have 4,000 admissions per year coming into one central emergency department, is a recipe for disaster.

I do not know how Peat Marwick came up with that suggestion. The problem at the Queen Street Mental Health Centre is the problem we predicted in 1979, that you create the mega-institution which is too large to provide therapeutic services. The solutions put forward by Peat Marwick are not going to change that. They are simply going to make the situation worse.

Let me continue to read from Dr. Macpherson's report, some of which I have attempted to deal with. "Why Queen Street is so swamped with admissions," Dr. Macpherson writes. "The closure of the Lakeshore Hospital is only part of the answer. Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital serves a population half as large with one quarter of the admissions. In other words, the probability of psychiatric hospitalization is twice as great in Metropolitan Toronto as it is in the Hamilton-Niagara region. It is evident that the weight of psychiatric hospitalization from the metropolitan area is excessive. The reasons for this should be explored."

Again, I can digress for a moment and speculate, without as much authority as in my previous speculation. I think one of the reasons is clearly the failure of the Ministry of Health to put in place a network of community mental health services and supports. In the absence of those services and supports—proper aftercare services, proper rehabilitation services, proper outpatient medical services and, in particular, proper housing services with built-in supports—we have the Parkdale phenomenon with that kind of treadmill of discharges into slums, breakdowns and readmissions. So the Queen Street centre has the highest readmission rate in the entire province.

Let me return again to Dr. Macpherson. "In addition to the excessive inflow, the community resources to deal with patients post-discharge are inadequate. The housing stock for the poor, including former psychiatric patients, is diminishing. Housing policy must be examined to correct this situation. The role of the satellites"—he is referring to Queen Street Mental Health Centre's very excellent satellite services—"is underemphasized in the report.

"There is no appreciation of the importance of community integration post-discharge and the fact that mechanisms for this must be locally based. Overall, there is a substantial lack of appreciation of the mental health system or an indication that society plays a role in the pressure for hospitalization of a psychiatric patient and, equally important, a role in rehabilitation. While we"—I guess it is the department of health—"reject the report in principle, we are unable to comment on the recommendations for improving internal efficiency. We have chosen to indicate where the specific recommendations are at variance with the philosophy of mental health services that are system- and community-based." Then they go on to make a series of recommendations.

This was all by way of preface, and I would like to raise these recommendations with the minister. I think Dr. Macpherson has put the case more persuasively and eloquently than I would otherwise have been able to do unaided. I want to ask the minister whether he will reconsider the recommendations contained in the Peat Marwick report. That implementation process was initiated by Dennis Timbrell, the present minister's predecessor, in a sense, I think, as a move of desperation.

Will the minister put that report on hold and undertake a proper process of public discussion and public hearings with respect to the prob-

lems and the proper direction of mental health care in Metropolitan Toronto and in the rest of this province before he moves to implement a number of recommendations which are guaranteed to make the situation at the Queen Street Mental Health Centre and in the rest of the metropolitan area worse rather than better?

Let me finally read the third recommendation of the department of health: "That the Minister of Health initiate a public inquiry into the system of mental health care in the city of Toronto and the metropolitan area, to include the Clarke Institute and the general hospital psychiatric units as well as the Queen Street Mental Health Centre, with special emphasis on the following issues: developing and instituting a method of reimbursement for general hospital psychiatric units, based on case mix and volume, to reward units treating the major mental illnesses efficiently; secondly, requiring each psychiatric unit in the metropolitan area to accept a primary care catchment area and providing appropriate financial incentives; and, thirdly, transferring control of Queen Street Mental Health Centre to an appropriate community body such as the city of Toronto."

I am not sure I agree with the third recommendation at all. At this stage in the process that would be a burden I think would be imposed unfairly on the city of Toronto or on the board of health or on any other third party. This is not to say that at some point down the road devolution may not be a reasonable proposal.

I would like to ask the minister whether he is prepared at this point to take a second look at his predecessor's decision to implement all the recommendations of the Peat Marwick report. Secondly, will he not agree to institute some kind of process—and I leave that to his judgement—of public hearing and discussion, perhaps using the Peat Marwick report as the basis for public discussion before he goes ahead and compounds the damage that was done to the mental health care system in 1979 with the closure of Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital with yet another impulsive and poorly thought out set of recommendations which will not solve the problems of our mental health care system.

5:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Stretching the tolerance of the chairman of the committee, I will respond to all those items relating to Queen Street even though none of the funds before us today relates to the Queen Street Mental Health Centre. I notice the member tried to hook it in through the psychiatric facilities in our general hospitals

which is the proper subject matter of the supplementary estimates.

Because I want to begin my time in this ministry with some clear understandings about where we are going, I might ask the forbearance of the chairman, who has allowed the member for Bellwoods to carry on for some time about Queen Street. So I am going to respond very briefly.

First, in regard to the opening remarks, contrary to what the member for Bellwoods says, I think my predecessor did an excellent and fine job over the five years he was here. As a member of this cabinet, I would have been most comfortable under his further guidance for another period of time. I thought he was up to date on and aware of the problems and dealing with them in an efficient and very intelligent fashion. I would have been proud to have him continue to serve as Minister of Health, as I am sure the farming community is delighted to have him now serving that important community.

Having said that, I want to say I am proud of any reputation I may have for having a willingness to look at things again, to have an open mind on some issues and to bring—as I like to think we all do—my personal approaches to problems. The member for Bellwoods brings his own personal approach and biases, prejudices and intelligence to bear on the problems he has just addressed, and I respect that. I do not happen to agree with a lot of it, but I do respect his views on that subject.

So that he will understand my view on Peat Marwick, I think the view he has given is not an entirely balanced one. To pretend that the Peat Marwick report was one that was developed in the absence of a great deal of psychiatric input from some of the best psychiatrists and people serving the community in Toronto would be to misrepresent very greatly the work that went into the Peat Marwick report. There is a lot of credibility in that report. It was not done in a vacuum, as has been suggested. It was developed together with people who are very close to the psychiatric services offered in general hospitals in this community and who also understood very well the problems that are in place in Queen Street at present.

The member makes some objection to the centralization of the process at Queen Street. I have to ask the member whether he was satisfied with the old way of doing things. He certainly was not. I have sat in this House and listened to his concerns—shared his concerns on some items—with regard to Queen Street,

and the old way of operating clearly was unsatisfactory.

So what has been done? There has been a new administrator put into place. In addition, there is a new chief of medical staff, whom I know the member will acknowledge to be one of the leaders in this community in the area of mental health. He took that job knowing what this minister and this ministry felt about the Peat Marwick report and having been told by me, through my staff, that we had a great deal of confidence in his judgment but that we did look to Peat Marwick as an important guiding document for implementation by him as he assumed his job.

I have no doubt that as he gets more experience at his job, Dr. Malcolmson may find certain areas where he will want to make some alterations in some of the recommendations. I do not purport to exercise my own judgement as to whether some of those changes might be right or wrong. We hired him because we think he is the right person for the job. I think he, together with Sister Janet, whose responsibilities are to oversee the implementation of the Peat Marwick report, and Mr. O'Keefe, the new administrator, has put us on the right road.

I know these people are all aware of the concerns that have been expressed and that those concerns were stated to those who put the Peat Marwick study together. Those concerns were well known to Mr. O'Keefe, Dr. Malcolmson and Sister Janet when they assumed their responsibilities. They are sensitive to all of those things.

I believe that the thrust, the general direction and the goals of the Peat Marwick report are right. So the members will understand where we begin on this task. It would be fair to say that we will be watching that implementation as carefully as we will be watching anything that this ministry does. It remains a major problem, but I am satisfied that we now have the right people in place to do the job. I suspect my friend will acknowledge that the people who have been hired are the right people, that they are good and qualified people.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is a structural problem, not a problem of individuals.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: To that interjection I will say those people are eminently qualified to deal with the structural problems. They have read the Peat Marwick report—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: And the others were not? Did the minister think the last director was not?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member disagrees. Empirically, we can look and see that there were an enormous number of problems surrounding the institution over the past several years. The root causes have been analysed over and over. One will always get a variety of opinions as to what the root problems were. Ultimately the buck has to stop somewhere, and that is here. I accept that. In response to the Peat Marwick report, this ministry has put in place a new administrator, a new chief of medical staff and an excellent monitoring committee.

With regard to the suggestion that we appoint a further committee, a further study—

Mr. McClellan: A public discussion.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member for Bellwoods calls it “a public discussion.” As a member of this community, let alone as Minister of Health, I think there has been a lot of dialogue and many views have been put forward. At some stage one becomes subject to the accusation, and it is a fair accusation, that all one is doing is talking about the problem and not getting on with the solution.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The history of the ministry has been to replace administrators right, left and centre. Mike O’Keefe has had four different jobs in the past four years. That’s no solution.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member may disagree with the solution. Neither he nor I will be able to judge whether these decisions are right for some period of time. I have made a fundamental decision that more and more discussion instead of getting on with the job is the worst decision of all. I have rejected that alternative. Therefore, we are authorizing Dr. Malcolmson, Mr. O’Keefe and Sister Janet to get on with the implementation of what is considered by us—

Mr. McClellan: What’s the rationale for closing Lakeshore?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The rationale is, “Let’s close Lakeshore and see what happens.”

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am not here to deal with history; I am here to deal with the future.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Oh, you are just remaking it.

Mr. Cassidy: You are part of that history.

The Deputy Chairman: The minister is answering the questions. There will be ample opportunity to present further questions. Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Michael, you are living history. So just wait your turn.

The point I am making is that I am dealing with the future, and I think it is important that we adopt a solution which I hope will prove to be the right decision.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Just one?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Well, one can’t choose two.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You can take your time and do it right instead of making Lakeshore again, which is what you are doing.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) will see that when one is in opposition he can choose two or three. When one is in government one can only choose one. I say to my friend, I respect his right to say this is the wrong solution. I think it is the right solution. I think the people are right. I think he would agree that Dr. Malcolmson is an excellent choice to be in charge of the medical side of that institution and—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mike O’Keefe was a great head of Whitby and of St. Thomas and of Nipissing.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You will get your turn.

The Deputy Chairman: You will have your opportunity to speak. The minister is still speaking.

5:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Again, we are pressing the patience of this House by discussing the nitty-gritty of the Queen Street Mental Health Centre, which is not the subject matter of this vote.

To respond to my colleague in the spirit in which he has put forward these comments, and so that he and I can understand where we are both coming from on this issue—he has made it quite clear—I hope I have taken the opportunity on this vote to make it clear that it is important we get on with this job.

The Peat Marwick report is a good guiding document. Dr. Malcolmson is the right man for the job. He has been mandated, along with Sister Janet and Mr. O’Keefe, to begin implementation. I am also sure that over time they will find certain alterations or amendments or particular ways they want to do things that will prove to be appropriate. Ultimately, only time will tell. But I can sit here with some comfort knowing that some well qualified people are now getting on with the job.

Mr. McClellan: I appreciate at least a clear statement from the minister. Again, I disagree, but we are not going to get into an I disagree, you disagree argument.

Since the subject of this vote properly is the general hospitals, what is the impact of the Peat Marwick recommendations on the rest of the psychiatric care system that is located within our general hospitals in Metropolitan Toronto?

I defy the minister to answer that question, because it has never been analysed. It was not analysed in the course of the Peat Marwick study. When McKinsey did its role study of the three psychiatric units in 1978, it also failed—it was not a failure of purpose, but a failure of the terms of reference of the McKinsey study—it also failed to assess its recommendations around future roles in relation to the rest of the system.

Now the minister is talking about a profound change in the role of the Queen Street Mental Health Centre. In the Peat Marwick report, there is no distinction between tertiary care and chronic care. The terms are obviously used interchangeably.

It is clear to me that Queen Street will become, in the words of Peat Marwick, "a dumping ground for the seriously mentally ill of low socioeconomic status." That is the general direction the Queen Street centre has been edging towards for a long period of time.

The Peat Marwick recommendation that gives to the Queen Street centre the responsibility for tertiary care and appears to remove the responsibility for primary and secondary care from the psychiatric units of general hospitals will simply institutionalize that pattern and turn Queen Street into a dumping ground. I don't see how that can be avoided.

Also, it is entirely unclear what the impact will be on the psychiatric units in general hospitals.

Can the minister answer that set of concerns? They are not concerns that I raise in isolation. They are concerns that are being discussed throughout the mental health care community as a result of the obvious inadequacies of the process that led to the Peat Marwick report, a process that was closed, that did not have public hearings and that had no opportunity for the hospitals and other sectors of the mental health community to bring forward their concerns in any kind of a systematic and public forum.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I do not recall the member's first question but I recall my answer to it; it was "no." I hope the member will forgive me for not remembering what he said.

Mr. McClellan: You don't know what the question was, but the answer is no.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The answer is "no" to the member's first question. I was thinking about the second one. I had better check the answer to make sure that I am right in saying the answer is "no."

With regard to the second question—that is right, the first question was an allegation that Queen Street is going to become a dumping ground for the lower end of the socioeconomic bracket. That just is not the case. I say that is what a fully integrated system should avoid. It should obviously not be structured to send a certain economic bracket to a particular institution but to send people to the institutions where the kind of psychiatric care they need happens to be available.

Those kinds of things I look to be addressed not only by the ministry, not only by Dr. Heseltine and not only by Dr. Malcolmson but also by the district health council. That is where the integration with the psychiatric units in the public hospitals will occur.

Mr. McClellan: I do not think the minister understands the process of referral. People who are in the category identified in the Peat Marwick report—the seriously mentally ill of low socioeconomic status—tend not to get referred at all to private psychiatrists. Second, they tend not to get referred to the psychiatric unit of general hospitals, they get referred to the provincial psychiatric hospitals. That is who is in there.

The principal problem with the Peat Marwick report is that there is a confusion between tertiary care and chronic care and the role for Queen Street. The seriously mentally ill of low socioeconomic status are also chronic care patients, by and large. They are the people who move through the hospital into Parkdale and back again, and back and forth and back and forth.

Peat Marwick identified tertiary care as the principal role for Queen Street. Psychiatric units of general hospitals are not mentioned, as far as I can see in this report or anywhere else within the ministry's grand design of mental health care for Metro Toronto. The seriously mentally ill of low socioeconomic status do not fit into the general psychiatric units of general hospitals at all. They are being increasingly frozen out. That seems to be the implication of the policy. I am not positive that I am accurate in that, but one certainly cannot tell from Peat Marwick because there is no reference at all to

the role of the psychiatric units in general hospitals.

One can only guess and speculate, because the study is silent on the relationship between Queen Street and the rest of the system. If I am accurate in my assessment, and it is a speculative assessment, then it means Queen Street will become a dumping ground on an institutionalized permanent basis. That is the principal danger of moving ahead with implementation of Peat Marwick before we have had a chance to assess the role of Queen Street within the total system, including general hospital psychiatric units and the network of services in the community.

Again, if the minister and the government are intransigent on the question, more is the pity. I think we will simply deal with the problems again and again, and we will continue to have the kinds of flareups that have characterized life in that very unhappy facility at Queen Street.

A psychiatric hospital cannot be run, as Dr. Mcpherson says, with that volume of admission and that many seriously disturbed patients. It becomes literally impossible to create a therapeutic milieu, with that level of turmoil and disturbance combined with the kinds of constraints and resources. It is simply impossible; so the place blows up periodically. Periodically it spills over into the community and periodically patients die.

5:50 p.m.

Then we have to have an examination. But not through a public inquiry which might anticipate problems and bring together the best minds of the mental health community to come up with solutions. Instead, we have to deal with the problems, if I may say so, a death at a time through the inquest route. That simply is not good enough and it does not lead to solutions. The inquest into the death of Aldo Alviani surely proved that. Eighteen months later we are back dealing with precisely the same kinds of problems.

I think, and I will say it again for the last time, that we are experiencing a crisis of vision in mental health care in this province. I do not think we have ever come to grips with the impact of drug therapy on the entire mental health care system. It has cleaned out the back wards and dumped people who were chronically mentally ill and living in institutions into our communities. It has affected all the different pieces of the mental health care system.

Nobody has ever sat down, including the Ontario Council of Health, and tried to assess

what the full impact of the major reliance on drug therapy has been and will be on the mental health care system for the restructuring of the system. Until that is done, we will continue to argue these kinds of things with a complete degree of futility.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I will try to sum up quickly. I must say I have tried to show some open-mindedness, and I have listened to the comments of my critic, whose motivation I do not doubt and for whose knowledge in the area I have respect. The only thing I want to take strong objection to is the suggestion that this minister or this ministry continues to deal with these things one death at a time.

The member may disagree with the route we have chosen. We have new people in place. They are not just reacting to the inquests; they are certainly listening to their findings and will respond to them, but they have a lot more on their minds than simply reacting to crises. They are in there to develop long-term strategies and policies and to change the whole role of that institution and what it is doing to something that will not be a continual problem, as it has been over the last few years.

To deal with the other general point raised by my colleague, he has excerpted the dumping ground thing out of the Peat Marwick report as though that were what Peat Marwick was suggesting. I know he did not mean to imply that, but I think Hansard would contain the thread that this was what Peat Marwick might have recommended for Queen Street or saw as the future role for Queen Street.

Mr. McClellan: They identified that is a problem, and I am saying the recommendation will worsen the problem.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: A problem: The Peat Marwick report recommended that the role of Queen Street be redefined in relation to its catchment area and as it relates to primary, tertiary and secondary care.

Mr. McClellan: Don't read it out of sequence.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I must say I want to be careful about the words I select, because I think the member was less careful than he might have been and therefore caused some misunderstanding about what Peat Marwick recommended.

May I also say, with regard to the only part of the member's comments which really related to the vote before us this afternoon, that the result of a careful implementation of Peat Marwick and an assessment of the role of Queen Street

and the catchment area will obviously necessarily impact upon the other health care services in the community. The catchment area may be affected in terms of the boundaries of the catchment area and certainly the services provided by other mental health care providers and health care services in the area.

As Peat Marwick point out, those will have to be dealt with, and the implementation committee together with the district health council will be dealing with those problems. I want to make that clear. The implementation committee and the district health council will be dealing with the implications of the changing role of Queen Street Mental Health Centre, and that will have an impact on the psychiatric care being provided in the public hospitals.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Chairman, I will try to be very brief to conclude before six o'clock. I have just two or three points I would like to raise for the attention of the new Minister of Health.

My constituency and many others in the Ottawa area have grown in the past and people there are increasingly concerned about the availability of services in the French language in the field of health, especially when dealing with children's services. The minister may remember we asked questions of his colleague regarding a children's hospital in eastern Ontario. As the minister may know, it is very difficult to administer health services to children and even more difficult if the children cannot understand the language in which the staff talks to them.

There is also the area of mental health which has similar problems, specifically at the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital. I raised an issue in the House last fall. This was a case at Brockville Psychiatric Hospital of a 77-year-old patient who had no knowledge at all of the English language. He was there as a patient and apparently could not even get any kind of basic services such as a glass of water. That is a very sad case and a sad way in which to treat our elderly people and those who are mentally ill or anyone suffering from any kind of illness for that matter.

I just want to bring those two points to the attention of the minister. I hope he will do the best job possible in his new ministry in the area of health, but more specifically provide those services to the constituency of Prescott-Russell

and the other francophone areas of the province.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Might I say very briefly that I am aware of some shortfalls in that area. My colleague the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson) and I are currently discussing some things that can be done to train the people with the proper capabilities to help deal with that problem. I want to give the member my personal assurance this is a major priority with this minister and it is a problem that will be solved. We will find a way to close those gaps wherever they exist in terms of the availability of French-language services for people in the health care system, particularly in his area. It will be done.

Mr. Boudria: I have one last point, Mr. Chairman. I was not trying to shed blame especially on the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital. I understand they have had a lot of problems trying to recruit the personnel needed and it is almost impossible because people from French-speaking areas will not move to that location. So I recognize that is a difficulty. I do not place blame on the administration of the hospital; it is a difficult situation and I recognize that.

The Deputy Chairman: I am concerned about the hour. Could the member for Bellwoods give me an idea if he wishes to participate further in this debate, and will it be short?

Mr. McClellan: I have five or six items I want to pursue, so it may be wise to adjourn the debate.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wells, the committee of supply reported a certain resolution.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House, I would like to indicate the business for tomorrow as I indicated earlier I would do. We will continue in committee of supply with supplementary estimates and continue with the Health estimates which have not yet been completed, followed by Environment, Community and Social Services, Transportation and Communications, Northern Affairs, Natural Resource and Treasury and Economics. That is for tomorrow afternoon and tomorrow evening.

The House adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

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Ontario LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 12

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Tuesday, March 30, 1982

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, March 30, 1982

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, if I may rise on a point of privilege, I want to read to you some correspondence that came into my possession through the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht).

The correspondence is on the letterhead of Golden Mile Motors Ltd., 1897 Eglinton Avenue East, Scarborough, Ontario, over the signature of Bryan Rowntree, president of that establishment. It is addressed to all members of the Toronto Automobile Dealers Association, and it reads:

"Gentlemen:

"You will no doubt recall the problem of inventory that existed with some of us last fall.

"You will also recall how co-operative our provincial minister, Mr. Frank Miller, was in helping us by removing the provincial sales tax and stimulating auto sales at that time.

"The wholesale interest saving for dealers has been estimated in excess of \$8,250,000 in December alone. While it was of more benefit to some dealers than others, it helped us all.

"This successful event once again proves the benefit of dealers being united as in TADA, and then of working closely with government.

"It is now our turn to say Thank You!

"On May 10, there is to be a fund-raising dinner for Frank Miller. The very noted economist, Mr. Kaufman of New York City, is to be the highlight speaker of the evening.

"I urge you to attend along with your senior management to show your appreciation to a member of government who listens.

"Please contact Jack Buchanan at 493-6565 for tickets and further information.

"Do it now."

I draw to your attention, sir, that the main speaker is the noted economist from the Salomon Brothers financial house in New York City, a financial agent for Ontario. The cheques for the tickets are to be made payable to the Muskoka Progressive Conservative Association at \$1,200 per table.

I am asking you, sir, if you will confer with your advisers and inform the House if this

procedure, whereby large political contributions appear to be solicited and made payable to the constituency organization of the man who conferred the benefit, in direct response to specific and direct tax relief, is proper under our rules. I refer you specifically to the Legislative Assembly Act, section 45:

"(1) The assembly has all the rights and privileges of a court of record for the purposes of summarily inquiring into and punishing, as breaches of privilege or as contempts and without affecting the liability of the offenders to prosecution and punishment criminally or otherwise according to law, independently of this act, the acts, matters and things following"—I will read the last part of subsection 3—"or offering to or the acceptance by a member of any fee, compensation or reward for or in respect of the drafting, advising upon, revising, promoting or opposing any bill, resolution or thing submitted to or intended to be submitted to the assembly or a committee thereof."

I ask you, sir, to use your good offices to look into this matter and to report back as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. I will take this matter under consideration and confer with my advisers, and I will be pleased to report back.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: Before we enter into routine proceedings, I would like all members of the assembly to join me in welcoming the members of the consular corps of Toronto who are seated in the west gallery. We extend a very warm welcome to them and thank them very much for taking the time to join us.

ORAL QUESTIONS

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. He just heard my point of privilege. May I ask him what his reaction to that letter is?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the whole point of privilege. The Leader of the Opposition has already asked for your advice,

Mr. Speaker. I find it rather amusing that he would now ask mine.

Mr. Peterson: Does that mean the Premier has no opinion? We sent him a copy of it, and we will wait if he wants to read it. Is that the kind of thing he approves of? I think there is a very important ethical principle here.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would only say, knowing the gentleman involved, the Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. F. S. Miller), if the member wants to attack his ethics, he can be my guest, but he will be the only one who will do it.

Mr. Peterson: Has the Premier inquired into the circumstances of bringing Mr. Henry Kaufman here from Salomon Brothers in New York, which is a financial agent for and does a considerable amount of business with Ontario, to speak at a fund-raising dinner for the Treasurer, who is in charge of hiring these people for those particular duties?

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect, I am not personally known to Mr. Kaufman and vice versa. I understand, and I am only going by limited knowledge, that he is a very knowledgeable person in terms of the general financial situation, particularly in the United States.

If the Leader of the Opposition does not feel it is appropriate for Mr. Kaufman to come and speak in this jurisdiction at a fund-raising dinner for a Progressive Conservative riding association, maybe he should—I have not—just check back on who has been to any of his riding associations to offer advice. He might even check in terms of who offered advice during his own leadership convention, for all I know. Mississauga North had Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Conway: Is the government planning to hire Ronald Reagan in some financial advisory capacity?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No.

Mr. Conway: That's the difference.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

2:10 p.m.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services concerning an unfolding situation of which I am sure he is aware. I am speaking of the Children's Listening Centre of North York. The centre provides intensive outpatient psychotherapy for 30 emotionally disturbed children from the age of two up to 10 years. It is widely acclaimed and acknowledged within the com-

munity, and even the ministry admits it is the only one of its kind within the province. The centre is well established in the mental health network in Toronto but needs greatly increased funding and a broader financial base to meet its objectives.

I would like to ask the minister why he is not prepared to provide the funding for that institution and why he is happy to sit by and see it fold.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I am not happy to sit by and see it fold. I have been attempting to put that children's mental health centre on a stable basis of funding for 11 months.

I met them last year after we had given them \$50,000, which was an interim payment. They had never approached us before, because they had a unique and unusual arrangement with the physicians attending there, who were donating part of their fees. When that appeared to be no longer a feasible situation, they approached my predecessor, who provided interim funding for them. That was the time the report was written.

They came to me and we provided, I believe, additional interim funds. At the meeting I had with them, I pointed out that it was not in the picture in the Toronto area to fund them, but there were to be two developments and I did not want to see them closed pending the decision on those developments. The first one—and I shared my feelings with them as well as my information—was that we were approaching the federal government for cost sharing on children's mental health centres. I gave them my word that, if that occurred, those additional funds would be used for them first. I did not want them to close while that decision was being made by the federal minister. In the meantime, I was given assurances that the doctors' funding would continue.

In February, the federal minister told me in Ottawa, "No new programs under CAP." That means they are not going to provide any share in the funding of children's mental health centres. At the same time, I understand the centre no longer can rely upon those doctors' contributions.

It is with regret that I am unable to fund, but I have priorities in other areas of the province and those priorities have to be met. No one regrets it more than I.

Mr. Peterson: I understand the minister's regret, but I want to appeal to him. He understands that to get assistance under the Canada assistance plan there has to be a provincial contribution first. Second, let me ask the minister about his priorities; if they are not

his personal priorities, then they are reflective of his government's priorities.

At the present time, there is a waiting list of 1,334 children attending mental health centres. These figures are from only 45 of the 79 centres that are currently members of the Canadian Mental Health Centres Association.

I ask the minister, what more important priority could he or his government have than to properly fund this very worthwhile organization and institution, and why is he not paying more attention to it?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not need the cheap shot about why I am not paying more attention to it. Second, if the Leader of the Opposition does not know how CAP is funded, I will be pleased to tell him. If the program is not eligible under CAP, there is not a dollar that comes out. Every cent that is spent on children's mental health centres in this province is 100 per cent Ontario dollars.

What I asked the federal minister to do was to change the rules under the Canada assistance plan to allow children's mental health centres to be funded under CAP. She told me—and there is a tape, because she was making a tape at the time—"No additional, no new money, no new programs under CAP."

The member has asked me what my priorities are. We are massively enriching children's mental health programs this year, as we have enriched them in previous years. In some areas of the province there is a shortfall in services that can be provided. The waiting list to which the member refers involves not only residential beds but also outpatients, home care and so forth.

The demands and needs in other areas of this province are a priority. If the Children's Listening Centre was in another area of the province, serving children who had no other access, then the member is quite right, it would be the number one priority.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I do not understand why the minister is making all this fuss about the Canada assistance plan. CAP has never funded children's mental health centres since it was established in 1972.

Yesterday, in the House, the Premier (Mr. Davis) said he was unable to give us the answer to one or two questions because they were budget items and he was unwilling to speak about budget items. The minister, on the other hand, outside of the House, said yesterday that

he was going to be increasing the money for children's mental health centres by 19 per cent.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, I did not.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The minister did not say that? Then I will quote. The minister said, "He [Mr. Johnston] wanted 18 per cent; is that right? Does he know what the increase in the 1982 budget is? It is 19 per cent. I have gone over \$100 million." Why doesn't the minister make it 20 per cent and fund the listening centre as well?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I did not make a statement in the House about my budget. The member put on a little light show yesterday. He knew there was going to be considerable enrichment of the children's mental health care program and he wanted to take credit for it. He held a public press conference to criticize government funding rather than mentioning the issue in the House.

When I raised the matter in the House, I did not say what my budget was but stated the percentage of increase; which made a piker out of the member, considering that he was asking for less than I was providing.

Mr. Peterson: According to the executive director of the listening centre, Mrs. Pat Wynn, the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson) reported to her that, based on the contents of a report, cabinet had made a positive decision for permanent funding. The question is, who overrode the minister in cabinet?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I think the member has been misinformed. I met with Mrs. Wynn some time last spring, and she told me the same thing when the member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton) was Minister of Community and Social Services. I told her that I did not know where she got that information, that I had referred to cabinet and could assure her that had not been done.

The Minister of Colleges and Universities has advocated a very thorough search to see whether something could be done to fund the CLC properly. She has been extremely co-operative and helpful to me in this matter in the past 11 months, but I can say categorically that no cabinet decision was made such as that mentioned by Mrs. Wynn. I am surprised she would say that.

2:20 p.m.

HYDRO RATES

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Energy. The minister will be

aware that Ontario Hydro is now asking the Ontario Energy Board for rate increases of up to 14 per cent and that Ontario Hydro proposes to charge higher rates for the winter months, September to March, than for the summer months. The policy will result in an additional two per cent cost to consumers in northern Ontario because of the longer and much colder winters. Are the residents of northern Ontario to be gouged once more by this policy of higher rates in winter, when we use most of our hydro in the north, as opposed to summer?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable member will understand, when I received the proposals for next year's rates from Ontario Hydro I referred them to the Ontario Energy Board. It is my understanding that the Ontario Energy Board has now publicized the dates for the hearings, at which time the public is invited to attend before that board and comment on those proposals. Perhaps that is where it should be left now so that the member and others might have an opportunity to go and make their representations to the Ontario Energy Board.

Mr. Martel: Surely the residents of northern Ontario should be protected against the rate increase, which will see higher rates in winter than in summer. I do not think we should be asking the public to defend the residents of northern Ontario. The Minister of Energy should be doing that. Is he prepared to do it?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I just repeat once again: This matter is before the Ontario Energy Board. If, in fact, there are some proposals with respect to their rate increases for next year that the member is dissatisfied with, the member is entitled, as is any member of the public, to make representations before the OEB.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, the question is pure and simple. Is the Minister of Energy prepared to defend the interests of the people of northern Ontario, or is he going to leave that decision to the Ontario Energy Board?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, the defence of any section of the province is not being left to the OEB. What we are talking about are the principles upon which certain proposals for rate adjustments are being made. That is a matter for consideration by the Ontario Energy Board.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, is the minister also prepared to intervene in the field of home heating costs with regard to the prices of natural gas for home heating? Does the minister not think it is really quite unfair and even cruel of the Ontario Energy Board that in these difficult

times it consciously awards increases that are predicted by the companies themselves and by the Ontario Energy Board to raise both profits and return on equity by some 25 to 50 per cent this year?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, this is a recycled question that the honourable member discussed a couple of weeks ago, and it is my understanding that the member has already taken some action to have that matter reviewed.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Since we did not get much yesterday with respect to Wilco and the Ministry of Labour's response there, I want to deal with another company, called Rothsay Concentrates.

Is the minister aware that on January 19, 1982, an employee was ordered into a feather pit to remove frozen feathers from a large beater-like device, and while he was in the pit the foreman turned the mulcher or beater on and an employee was entangled in the beater, thrown up through a 10-inch space and dropped some 12 feet? Is the minister also aware that it required over 200 stitches to assist the man? He nearly lost his eyesight.

Is the minister further aware that the employee was following the instructions of his supervisor and that the proper lock-out procedure was not followed?

Will the minister tell me why his inspector refused to go to that site to investigate that accident?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, in respect to the honourable member's reference to the matter he brought up yesterday, I will have a complete report on that for him on Thursday in this Legislature. I had hoped to have it today, but I would prefer to wait until Thursday if I could.

As for the matter he has brought to my attention today, I must admit this is the first I have heard of it.

Mr. Martel: Is the minister aware that on January 26, some seven days after the accident, Mr. Addley, one of his inspectors, accompanied by the health and safety committee, discovered violations leading to 72 orders against the company? They made 14 other suggestions, but they failed to respond to the union request to have the operation shut down until the violations were repaired.

Further, is the minister aware that on January

27 a worker was ordered to go down into the same pit where a previous worker had been injured? It was only on a work refusal—a "70" as they call it, referring to Bill 70, which it comes under—that the inspector ordered the operation shut down.

Do we have to have refusals or more injured workers before the ministry's inspectors enforce this act?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am not aware of the matters the member has brought to my attention.

Mr. Martel: What action does the minister intend to take? Some of the workers there were threatened by management with losing their jobs. Also, the company wrote the ministry two letters, indicating they had repaired 63 of the violations; the union, in checking that, found at least 11 were not touched. That is misinformation to the minister. Is he going to start to prosecute?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: If what the member tells me is correct, and I have no reason to believe that it is not, then I am as upset as he is about this circumstance. Certainly we will look into the question in complete detail, including the possibility of prosecution, if warranted.

SUCCESSOR RIGHTS

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated a moment ago, the matter of Wilco will be reported in this House on Thursday, as will the commitment I made yesterday to bring back information on Dominion Auto Accessories in Windsor. I hope to handle both those matters on Thursday of this week.

Meanwhile, yesterday the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) asked me about certain difficulties that were being experienced with respect to the hiring practices under the collective agreement at Emrick Plastics in Windsor. I am advised that the United Auto Workers union has filed an application under section 63 of the Labour Relations Act which is scheduled to be heard by the Ontario Labour Relations Board next month; that is April.

In the circumstances it would be inappropriate for me to make any comment on the details of the union's application except to point out to the honourable member that the Ontario Labour Relations Board has had occasion to deal with cases in which a business is sold through a receiver. However, it is the responsibility of the board to determine the merits of the union's application.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the minister's statement, surely he will remember the second part of the question which was in regard to the lack of teeth in section 63 of the Ontario Labour Relations Act.

I asked the minister yesterday, and I repeat the question today, when is he prepared to introduce in this House tough deterrent penalties upon any employer engaged in such disregard of the successor rights provision of the act? When is he going to take action to bring in tough penalties so that this kind of incident will not happen again?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the only commitment I am prepared to make at this time is to look into it very seriously.

KEATING CHANNEL DREDGING

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment concerning Keating Channel.

The minister should be aware that tomorrow, March 31, 1982, is the expiration date for all exemptions under Ontario's environmental legislation for the emergency dredging of Keating Channel. Will he advise this House now that he will subject the dredging of the channel by the Toronto Harbour Commissioners to a review and public hearings under what I stress is the rarely used Environmental Assessment Act? This was promised by the Premier (Mr. Davis) on November 24, 1980, after Dr. Donald Chant, the former chairman of the Premier's environmental assessment steering committee, recommended that such hearings should take place.

2:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the present exemption expires very shortly and a request has not been brought to my attention for any pressing need at the moment for further dredging. At such time I will give full consideration to the matter.

Mr. Elston: The minister must surely be aware that since 1976 his ministry has been aware of the Keating Channel sediments, which are contaminated with PCBs, mercury, zinc, lead, oil and grease, yet his ministry ignored the problems until 1980 and permitted emergency exemptions on the ground of so-called pressing urgency, then hired an engineer, Ivor Lorient, at \$550 a day to conduct a technical inquiry into the risk of the flooding of the Don River due to sediment that built up in the Keating Channel.

Since Mr. Lorient's report indicated that diking for a few hundred metres and flood

proofing of a few vulnerable structures would provide better protection for much less money than would dredging, would the minister assure us that this proposal will be placed before the Environmental Assessment Board so that alternatives to dredging can be discussed?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know how much of the background the member is familiar with but he may or may not know, through the efforts of his researcher, that environmental assessment is in preparation and has been in preparation for some time. It is not yet complete. If the member is requesting it as of this moment it would not be possible, because the first step in such consideration would be the preparation of the assessment by the proponent.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, will the minister at least confirm to the House today that there will be no dredging action until that assessment, such as it is, is completed?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to give that kind of commitment on the spur of the moment. The member should not expect me to. At the moment, I am not aware of any pressing need for further dredging to take place. If such is the case and if there are any indications of situations arising that might create an emergency, such as potential flooding, which I am not aware of at the moment, then I might be required to take that into consideration in making any such decision.

Mr. Elston: But your decision has to be made tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, it does not. It simply means that as of tomorrow there can be no further dredging until such time as that issue is addressed. It does not mean a decision has to be made by tomorrow. I am not going to make some commitment on the spur of the moment which, because of changing circumstances, I may find inappropriate in three days' time.

DISMISSAL OF CIVIL SERVANT

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, is the Minister of Natural Resources aware that a young, very dedicated forester in the employ of his ministry in Nipigon has had his services terminated by the deputy minister, simply on the basis that he was acting in a professional and responsible way and made the mistake of talking about a very important issue, namely, forest management, to the member for that area?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, it is my information that Mr. MacAlpine disagreed with ministry policies and procedures and took his

disagreement into the public forum. As an employee, Mr. MacAlpine had a right to disagree and to make his views known to management. Having done so and having been instructed to follow ministry policies and procedures, Mr. MacAlpine was expected to conform and to apply the policies and procedures to the best of his ability.

To move his dispute with his employer into the public forum so long as he remained an employee was not consistent with his responsibilities as an employee. Mr. MacAlpine has the right to appeal and since I believe has already appealed his dismissal it would be inappropriate for me to make any further comment. I would not wish to prejudice the appeal process in any way.

Mr. Stokes: Does the minister recall, when he was Minister without Portfolio and responsible for freedom of information, tabling sessional paper 215 on October 9, 1980, wherein he stated: "This government is committed to greater openness in its administration and increased access by the citizen. To this end, the Premier last week wrote to all ministers with guidelines for civil servants in communicating with the public"?

Let me quote briefly from that letter: "Between now and the time freedom of information legislation is enacted and the administrative apparatus for its operation is in place, there is a great deal we can do to give the policy of open government meaning and consistency. A step that can be taken in this interim period is to encourage open and responsive behaviour among public servants in their daily dealings with the public, particularly including members of the Legislative Assembly and representatives of the news media.

"The guidelines instruct public servants that the basic communications position of the government of Ontario is to be 'open' as opposed to 'closed' and goes on to lay out a code of expected conduct."

I am sure the Premier will remember tabling the guidelines. I will not read them all, but there are four that I would like to read for the purposes of bringing this to the attention of the assembly:

"The basic communications position of the government of Ontario is to be open as opposed to closed in its dealings with the public.

"Members of the civil service have a duty and a responsibility to communicate with the public, including particularly members of the Legisla-

tive Assembly and representatives of the news media.

"It will be normal for civil servants to be interviewed by the media in regard to factual information and to be quoted by name in regard to such interviews.

"Civil servants acting in good faith under these guidelines will not be considered as having violated their oaths of secrecy."

So said the Premier of this province. Why is the minister taking this action against a very dedicated civil servant who is doing nothing other than following his code of professional ethics as a professional forester?

Hon. Mr. Pope: I am aware of the guidelines. They have been applied in the ministry; the honourable member knows they have been applied in the ministry; all the members of the House know they have been applied. They have never had any trouble getting information. Mr. Marek has never had any trouble giving the honourable member information. In making my decision I took those guidelines and all the facts of the situation, including the transcript of the hearing, into consideration.

Mr. Bradley: Same as the feds.

Hon. Mr. Pope: It is not the same as the feds at all. The member opposite does not know anything about it.

Mr. Conway: I would like to ask a supplementary to the Premier, if you will allow it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: No. It has to be to the minister.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, is it not a fact that at least in the Ministry of Natural Resources, if not across government, the minister's civil servants have been given instructions that they are not to reply directly to members of the Legislature and that all communications have to go through the minister and be approved before they get back to the member of the Legislature who asked for the information in the first place?

Hon. Mr. Pope: No, Mr. Speaker.

TELEPHONE ACCOUNT BETTING

Mr. Kennedy: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Provincial Secretary for Justice, in the absence of the Minister of Commercial and Consumer Relations (Mr. Elgie), if he knows whether that ministry was aware of the proposal by the federal government to institute telephone account betting with respect to horse racing, which was announced recently by the federal Minister of Agriculture?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, I would not normally attempt to answer this question, but fortunately the member for Mississauga South gave me advance notice of his question, and therefore I was able to ascertain what the facts in the particular situation might be.

Telephone account betting has been discussed between the federal Ministry of Agriculture and the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations on previous occasions. It was our understanding that this matter would be delayed for some time before coming into effect. Our concern is that we have many small tracks over this province and we feel that the racetracks in small towns such as Hanover or Orangeville—and for instance Rideau-Carleton Raceway near my riding—provide many jobs, much employment and much commerce in these areas.

2:40 p.m.

We feel that allowing this kind of regulation to go forward without an in-depth marketing analysis of how it would affect the small tracks is going to hurt many of the breeders and horsemen in this province. Therefore, we would have preferred if the federal government had allowed us some opportunity to study the various tracks so that we could be certain the horsemen and the breeders in the small tracks could have an even break when this particular kind of new betting came into place.

Mr. Kennedy: Is it the provincial secretary's view that the federal government can go ahead unilaterally and do this without approval of the provinces?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: The final decision, of course, is within their jurisdiction to make this decision as to whether or not this kind of betting should or should not be allowed. We had asked them and we thought we had agreement before that they would not proceed at this particular time with this regulation to incorporate this kind of betting. Therefore, they acted in a unilateral manner in that regard.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, has the minister talked to the federal minister responsible, the Minister of Agriculture, in regard to bringing in offtrack betting in Ontario, which has been this government's policy for some time and, given its proclivity for lotteries and so on, would seem to make some sense? Is the minister still in favour of offtrack betting, and has he asked that it be brought into Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, with regard to that, I would prefer to defer the question to

the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

I will say that in terms of offtrack betting, intertrack betting, that is a matter that will require an amendment to the Criminal Code in order to allow that particular activity to go on. Of course, that is under the federal jurisdiction.

We are concerned with the implementation of these policies on our smaller centres which have housed many small tracks across this province, particularly in the standardbred area, and we are concerned with retaining the commerce of those small areas that have relied on these small tracks.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Premier. I think he is hiding in the alcove there, if he wants to come back in. I do not know whether he is coming in or not.

Mr. Speaker: He is not in his seat. A new question.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I may have the same problem. The Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) is hiding somewhere under his desk, and the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch)—here is the minister.

Since the day after tomorrow, April Fool's Day, is the inauguration of the government's—

Mr. Roy: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: One of my colleagues had another question from this party. We should not lose our turn just because a minister does not happen to be in the House.

Mr. Speaker: You are absolutely right, but the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) did not stand to be recognized. the member for Bellwoods did. The member for Bellwoods has the floor.

Mr. Breaugh: You not only have to be here, you have to stand up.

HOSPITAL CHARGES

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, since the day after tomorrow is April Fool's Day and is the inauguration of the government's new policy of permitting hospitals to ease their operating deficits through the sale of private and semi-private beds to sick people, can the minister tell me if he is aware that Victoria Hospital in London intends to raise its rate 56 per cent; the St. Joseph's Hospital in London intends to raise its rate 56 per cent for private and semi-private beds; and that the following hospitals which we have talked to intend to raise their prices 25 per cent: Toronto Western, North York Branson,

Toronto General, Hotel Dieu, Cornwall General and Stratford General?

Is the minister aware of these impending price hikes and others? If he is, perhaps he would be so kind as to table with the House the day after tomorrow the complete price lists, hospital by hospital, for private and semi-private beds for sale in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McClellan: Since the new policy obviously represents a threat to uniform terms and conditions under the federal medicare legislation, may I ask the minister if he will require every hospital using this new policy to publish each month the waiting times for elective procedures in two separate lists, one for pay beds or for sale beds and another for nonpay beds? Will he indicate to us whether there is a significant difference in the two waiting times? I would like to see this on a monthly basis so we can assess the new policy.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: As I am sure the member learned from yesterday's exercise, I am happy to make as much information available as possible and as is made available to us by the hospitals. If the hospitals have any difficulty in putting together some of those statistics, I will let the member know and we can talk about it at that time. We will be pleased to share with him any information we have with regard to delays in elective surgery, any of the problems that are reported to us and any other information we have. I can say that quite comfortably—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Do you prefer a 50 or a 25 per cent increase?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Come on. Are you running for mayor or not? If you are, then do it out there, not here—speaking of April Fool's Day.

In any case, let me tell the member the reason I can assure him that as much information as we have will be made available to him is that we intend to monitor the new program very closely so that we can see how it is working, see that administrators are following the letter and the spirit of both the existing legislation and the new plan, and make sure that patient care is not adversely affected.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, the minister is aware of information that has been tabled with him by, for one, Victoria Hospital in London indicating it is almost \$10 million in debt. Does the minister have any specific plans to alleviate what is actually the result of annual underfunding

by his ministry and leaves hospitals like Victoria Hospital in London in this desperate situation?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I might say to the new Health critic for the Liberal Party that perhaps her information with regard to the problems and the root causes of the problems at London Vic hospital and the reason the deficit was built up is probably, to put it mildly, as inaccurate as the information she put before this assembly yesterday on the Victorian Order of Nurses situation, for which I know she was burned rather seriously in private. If she would do a little more research in the cases of both London Vic and the VON situation, she might find that the situation at London Vic is not at all the way she has described it.

My colleague from London has discussed this at length with me. I have met the chairman of the board of London Vic in a very lengthy meeting, a constructive meeting, and as a result discussions are going on between the board and our ministry with a view to getting a very constructive and fair resolution to that deficit.

PETROLEUM RESOURCES COMMUNICATION FOUNDATION

Mr. Kolyn: I have a question for the Minister of Revenue, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister familiar with the recent series of advertisements launched by the Petroleum Resources Communication Foundation of Calgary? Members may be interested to note the advertisements claim that only \$5 out of every \$15 spent by consumers go to the oil industry while the remaining \$10 go to government. If indeed this is correct, could the minister inform the House how much Ontario receives from this \$10 figure?

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, that is a very excellent question because there is no doubt that in our open and free democratic system the petroleum resources community has every right to put that kind of publicity forward. Basically I do not disagree with the figures that are used, that approximately \$10 out of every \$15 one spends at the pumps goes to governments in one form or another. I think it is very important to put those numbers into context vis-à-vis the amount of revenue that comes into our coffers, that helps sustain the excellent highway system and the excellent public transportation system that we have.

Having said that, all we get out of that \$10 bill is about 25 per cent. In actual fact, threequarters

of that \$10 bill goes to the producing province and the federal government; we get very little.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, speaking of April Fool's jokes on the consumers, perhaps while the Minister of Revenue is on his feet talking on this subject he could tell us how much extra the new ad valorem tax is going to bring into Ontario as of April 1, 1982. What will the new increase in the ad valorem tax be?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, we base our ad valorem tax, as does virtually every province in Canada, on the median retail price that we survey at the end of the quarter. Early in March we surveyed those figures for price changes as of April 1. In this particular quarter, because of pass-throughs by the federal government and others, there will be a nominal change in the rate of a maximum of three tenths of one cent per litre at the pumps. That is for regular leaded gas, and it goes down from there to actually less than a fifth of a cent per litre at the pumps. In today's climate, I would suggest that at the retail level it probably will not even show.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: That was the final supplementary.

Mr. T. P. Reid: That was the only one, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: That is right.

COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENCES

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. Is the minister aware that officials of his ministry are refusing to reissue certain commercial fishing licences on the pretext that these licences are not being used?

Is the minister aware that these several generation fishermen practice good management of the resource by keeping an eye on markets and on stocks, and they judiciously use their licences?

The second question: Is the minister aware that in bringing in this new policy he is ignoring a long-established principle of government in Canada and Ontario that when new policies are brought in recognition is given to historically established patterns of use of a resource? I would remind him that this new policy came into effect in February 1982, without prior consultation with licence holders.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of all those matters.

Mr. McGuigan: If the minister is aware of

this, will he step in and change these policies that, if implemented, will take away licences from some 28 Lake Erie fishermen, people who have invested thousands of dollars in nets and equipment that are specifically tied to the specific licences?

Hon. Mr. Pope: I would be happy to accommodate the member and review the specific individuals he is concerned about, but I will not be changing the policy.

Mr. Sargent: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: That was the final supplementary. Just to explain the policy once more, the original questioner has one supplementary, and then the opposition has a supplementary. If the opposition do not indicate they want a supplementary, that is the end.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Why should that be?

Mr. Speaker: Because I said so.

DISPOSAL OF NUCLEAR WASTES

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment, but I would hope that the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) and the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) will also listen because it falls within their jurisdictions as well. It has to do with the conspiracy between the provincial and federal governments and Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. to do test drilling for the disposal of nuclear waste only in northern Ontario.

I assume the minister will know that at Massey 88 per cent of the population voted against the test drilling at nearby East Bull Lake, that the town council is opposed to that test drilling, that there are possible dangers to the water supply for Massey and that there were earth tremors at the Quirke Lake mine near Elliot Lake just last week.

Why is the minister allowing AECL to continue that test drilling in view of all the opposition within the community? Can the minister tell us why no ministers of this government, let alone the local members, federal or provincial, are taking the part of the good people of Massey who are simply trying to protect their own interest?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure why the honourable member directed that question either to me or, as far as that goes, anyone on this side of the House. He asks why I do not stop it. To the best of my knowledge, I do not have the authority to do that nor has any permission ever been sought by the Atomic Energy Control Board.

In some instances relating to other matters under the jurisdiction of AECL we have sought some authority to influence the activities. Up to this point I have fought one case as far as the Ontario Court of Appeal and will probably be taking it to the Supreme Court of Canada. However, so far the decisions of the courts have been quite consistent—that we do not have jurisdiction over the activities of that organization.

Mr. Laughren: That is an incredible answer. Have the Minister of the Environment or the Ministers of Energy, Northern Affairs and Natural Resources seen the letter AECL wrote to other North Shore municipalities asking them to support their test drilling at East Bull Lake near Massey? Why in that case will the minister not ask AECL, if all these other municipalities are in favour of that kind of drilling, to do its test drilling where it is wanted, not where it is not wanted by the majority of the people?

Further, will he direct—or ask at least—that an environmental assessment be done on that project before it goes any further this spring? Surely it is within the purview of the Minister of the Environment to at least ask AECL to have an environmental assessment done. Finally, why will he not say to AECL, “You must sign an agreement that where this test drilling is being done will not be the future site for the disposal of nuclear waste”?

Hon. Mr. Norton: The member knows full well that our legislation does not apply to a federal crown agency. I have no authority to request, demand, direct or otherwise subject them to provincial legislation. I think that is clear. If the member wants copies of references to decisions in the courts of this country I can provide him with that.

On the other aspect of his question, I do not think what he is suggesting really makes much sense at all.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, does the minister not recall that there is a joint agreement among the three levels involved in nuclear power? Does he not realize an undertaking was given to the select committee that sat here that if a municipality did not want that to take place it would not take place? Does the minister not recall his government's undertaking?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what undertaking the member is referring to. I had some conversation going on behind me.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Perhaps I can reword it. Surely the minister is aware that the provincial

government, through Ontario Hydro, the federal government and AECL are all involved on a joint committee.

Mr. Charlton: It was called the joint federal-provincial task force.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Exactly. Thank you. I do not recall all the names, but assurances were given to the select committee on Ontario Hydro affairs that if municipalities did not want exploratory drilling to take place they would not get it.
3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not aware of such an undertaking, but I can assure the member that if this undertaking were given, and if it were adhered to, then I could probably predict that there would never be any testing done whatsoever. If that is what the member wants, then he is on the right course of action.

SECONDARY EDUCATION REVIEW PROJECT

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Education.

The minister will be aware that there has been a good deal of discussion amongst people in the educational profession, parents and others generally interested in education about the secondary education review project report and that some concern has been expressed about the possible method of implementation of certain of the recommendations.

Will the minister assure the House this afternoon that she will take public reaction into consideration and, before the recommendations are implemented, will allow some kind of public hearing and public input into the specific recommendations of the report?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I will most seriously consider that suggestion.

Mr. Bradley: Will the minister also assure the House that when any of the recommendations from the report are implemented, this will be done by means of legislation rather than by regulation so that members of the Legislature will have the opportunity to comment in a meaningful way on the changes?

Will she assure the House that before legislation is passed, the matter of the specific recommendations will go a legislative committee for detailed discussion?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Certain of the recommendations have to do with modification of curriculum. Is the member asking that every time the curriculum is changed or modified in any way in this province it should be enacted

through legislation? If that is what he is suggesting, then I think we should all have very serious reservations about that.

If he is talking about structural changes, then most certainly that will be debated. I do not know what the appropriate mechanism would be, but I will certainly consider the member's suggestion.

IRWIN TOY DISPUTE

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have both a question and a request of the Minister of Labour. I wonder whether the minister is prepared to make a commitment to send Mr. Joyce and Mr. Meagher back into the Irwin Toy Ltd. situation here in Toronto as quickly as possible to prevent the complete collapse and undermining of the arrangements that were made in that plant?

Mr. Speaker: Just before the minister answers that question, I would ask the two honourable members who are conferring with the ministers to please carry on their conference some place else. The Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the background the member is referring to, but I will be happy to discuss it further with him as soon as the question period is over and certainly will give every consideration to having Mr. Joyce and Mr. Meagher go back in.

QUEEN STREET MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE

Ms. Coppins: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Health if he will resume his seat.

Mr. Speaker: He is not in his chair.
Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: In the interest of time, will the member please proceed?

Ms. Coppins: Yesterday, the inquest into the death of Norman Davis, a 27-year-old patient at the Queen Street Mental Health Centre, received a written police statement to the effect that more than 900 patients escaped or wandered off the grounds in 1981. More than half of these people were legally committed escapees for whom the centre was responsible under the Mental Health Act.

The minister will recall that in January the Peat Marwick report on the centre indicated as many as 10 patients a day were away without leave. It concluded that more locked wards and responsible use of physical restraint were needed.

In view of his ministry's total failure to run

and fund this provincial institution properly, will the minister finally take the advice of the Ontario Council of Health and Peat Marwick? Will he give up the management of Ontario psychiatric hospitals and turn them over to boards of management which will represent the communities served?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the member could not be with us here yesterday during the discussion of our supplementary estimates when my friend the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) and I were discussing the Peat Marwick report. My friend the member for Bellwoods thinks we should not implement the advice offered by Peat Marwick.

On the other hand, the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps), who is Health critic for her party, feels we should proceed swiftly with the implementation of the Peat Marwick report, and I agree. She has noted the new staffing that has been put in place—the new administrator, the new chief of psychiatry there and Sister Janet Murray, who is in charge of the implementation committee—to prevent the recurrence of past problems. I am sure the member will agree that is the responsible way to handle that situation.

Ms. Copps: I remind the minister that the movement of psychiatric patients into the community has caused the loss of 12,000 psychiatric beds across Ontario since 1963.

What will the minister do to relieve the dreadful conditions facing people who have been pushed out of the hospitals? What will he do in the Parkdale area of Toronto, where 1,200 ex-patients have to compete for 250 community-based beds? Will the minister arrange proper funding for these community-based programs, which are so starved for dollars that six of 10 discharged patients are back in the Queen Street Mental Health Centre within one year?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Many of the figures the member is using result from one person's analysis of the records at Queen Street. One of our major problems is the way Queen Street was run in the past, which has left a great deal of uncertainty as to whether patients are readmitted or go elsewhere when they leave the Queen Street facility. That was what led to the Peat Marwick study and the revamping of the way Queen Street is run. The problems are now in the process of being solved.

I am not satisfied with the way Queen Street has been run over the past several years. I am satisfied that we have an important and useful

study in place and that we have an excellent administrator and chief of psychiatry in charge. Together, they will begin to solve those problems, including the serious one of controlling the discharge of patients.

Someone has commented—I am not sure whether it was in the Peat Marwick report or the community services study—that planning for discharge should begin when the patient is first admitted. That has not always been the case at Queen Street, but it has to begin to happen. I am satisfied that it will happen under the new administration.

I am also determined to work with Metropolitan Toronto and all the groups operating in the community to begin to solve the Parkdale problem. It is not a satisfactory situation at present.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE ACT

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Sterling, first reading of Bill 36, An Act to establish the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

Motion agreed to.

3:10 p.m.

ONTARIO REFERENDUM ACT

Mr. T. P. Reid moved, seconded by Mr. Riddell, first reading of Bill 37, An Act to Provide a Referendum for Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, this is the same bill I introduced in the session last year in regard to referenda in Ontario.

It is interesting that questions were raised on the Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., drilling in northern Ontario, which was one of the reasons I was prompted to introduce a private member's bill that would give people either across the province or in a particular region or area of the province the ability to express by way of a referendum their views on any particular subject, such as, perhaps, nuclear energy or nuclear drilling for waste deposits in Ontario.

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE ACT

Hon. Mr. Walker moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Gregory, first reading of Bill 38, An Act to establish the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Motion agreed to.

TRESPASS TO PROPERTY AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Charlton, first reading of Bill 39, An Act to amend the Trespass to Property Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to authorize the distribution of information in the public areas of shopping centres in Ontario.

ASSESSMENT APPEAL PROCEDURE AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Epp moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, first reading of Bill 40, An Act respecting Assessment Review Procedures.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, this bill provides for a new assessment appeal procedure whereby appeals from decisions of the assessment review board, formerly the assessment review court, would no longer be heard by county court judges but by a division of the Ontario Municipal Board.

I introduced a bill somewhat similar to this one last December 10, and since that time I have had a lot of responses, particularly from municipalities across the province. In addition, I have had some private input. On the basis of the input from both the public and private sectors, I have made some important changes in the bill. I think the bill I have just introduced is an improvement over the earlier one, and I hope the government will support it.

Mr. Speaker: May we have the consent of the House to revert to petitions?

Agreed to.

PETITION

ANNUAL REPORT, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES, 1978-79

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a petition pursuant to standing order 33(b) of the Legislative Assembly.

"We, the 20 undersigned members of the assembly, hereby petition that the annual report of the Ministry of Community and Social Services for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1979, tabled in the House on November 19, 1979, sessional paper 256, be referred to the standing committee on social development for such consideration and report as the committee may determine."

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE PAPER

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I am tabling the answers to questions 9, 10 and 12 on the Notice Paper (see Hansard for Friday, April 2) and the interim answer to question 14 (see Notice Paper).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH

(continued)

On vote 3202, institutional health services program; item 4, institutional care services:

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, I have a number of other items, in addition to the one I spent some time on yesterday, I want to raise with the minister. I am sure I have his almost undivided attention. Is that true?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Do I have a choice?

Mr. McClellan: No, you don't have a choice. This is not a choice question.

I want to ask the minister if he can give us a little bit of help in trying to figure out what the situation is with respect to the relationship between active treatments beds and long-term-care beds in our general hospitals. It is necessary to ask the ministry at regular intervals for updates on just raw numbers, and to spend a fair amount of time trying to get basic factual information, as my colleague the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) was attempting to do for more than an hour yesterday, when he tried to find out what the \$88 million in these supplementaries is actually being spent on. We still do not know in detail.

We have a similar problem with respect to the number of beds in our hospitals and the mix between active treatment beds and long-term-care beds in hospitals and in other parts of the health care system, because the previous minister played such a wonderfully amusing game with the numbers. At one point, the number of beds had increased by some 6,000 over a five-year period. At another point, it was 3,000.

At various times, the picture changes and recedes into the mist and then re-emerges restructured and altered. All we know for a certainty is that there are serious overcrowding problems in many of our general hospitals, and they show up in the phenomenon of patients having to be admitted to active treatment beds via the emergency department and in many

hospitals having to wait in emergency corridors or emergency holding facilities until active treatment beds become available.

The cause of the problem dates back to the ministry's new bed-population ratio established in 1978. I know the minister does not like to go into all these sordid historical episodes inflicted on him by his predecessor, but it is necessary to try to make some kind of sense out of this.

3:20 p.m.

We have a situation now where, despite repeated promises that the problem would be well on its way to being solved, there is pressure on the hospitals caused by so many people, particularly elderly people, being in the wrong kinds of beds—in active treatment beds instead of in long-term-care beds. The solution of that problem ostensibly was the purpose of the new policy of switching from a major reliance on active treatment beds to an expansion of the number of long-term beds, chronic care beds, nursing home beds and homes for the aged beds.

We have had a whole series of promises over the course of the last four years by the minister's predecessor—different figures being promised every year, different commitments being made, remade, undone, revised, recanted, remade again, and each time the figures are different.

Just to refresh the current minister's memory, we know, for example, that in October 1980 the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto released its study of long-term-care bed needs in Metropolitan Toronto. I really wish the minister would at least go through the motions of paying some attention.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am going through the motions.

Mr. McClellan: I know you are going through the motions. I expect that will be your epitaph.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: My colleague was talking to me.

Mr. McClellan: I am also concerned about the fact that when the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto made this report in October 1980, the minister of the day said the report indicated that some 2,000 patients in Metropolitan Toronto were receiving care in facilities that were inappropriate. Two thousand patients were in the wrong kind of beds. They were in the wrong kind of beds because of the shortage of long-term-care beds, the shortage of chronic care beds in our general hospitals and the shortage of extended care beds in nursing homes and homes for the aged.

Because of the shortage of long-term-care

beds, many of these patients were occupying active treatment beds in our general hospitals. So the ministry brought in this policy of cutting active treatment beds and promising to expand the number of long-term-care beds. They have done a wonderful job of cutting active treatment beds. From March 1978 until August 1981, they managed to cut almost 2,500 active treatment beds out of the general hospitals of this province.

Unfortunately, and tragically for our hospitals and for the people of this province, they have failed miserably to implement the other side of the equation, which was to expand the number of chronic care beds, extended care beds, nursing home beds and homes of the aged beds.

When the then minister introduced the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto's report on long-term-care beds in October 1980, he made a number of promises, one of them being that he would establish an additional 300 nursing home beds immediately that year in Metropolitan Toronto. That was the first of a series of promises with respect to additional nursing home beds.

Again, the purpose was to take pressure off the general hospitals to make it possible to move people who are wrongly in active treatment beds into more appropriate beds, and to move people who are wrongly even in long-term-care beds in our hospitals, out of the hospitals into less costly and more appropriate alternatives.

What was the record after the most recent time this was raised in the assembly, December 1, 1981? In response to a question from the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock), the then minister boasted again in the House that in the course of the last two fiscal years—and I think that is 1979-80 and 1980-81, but it may have been 1980-81 and 1981-82—"In the last two fiscal years I have had approval to add 1,000 nursing home beds to the system. This approval I have granted."

I asked by way of supplementary, "How many of those 1,000 beds have already been set up?" The minister answered, with a certain amount of pique, "Well, 223." Out of the 1,000 nursing home beds that had been promised over two full fiscal years, at the end of that period 223 actually had been set up.

What a wonderful record. What a wonderful way to honour commitments and promises made to the health care system and particularly to the elderly people of this province. That is not, of course, the extent of the failure on the

part of this government to honour its commitment with respect to the establishment of additional long-term-care beds.

The Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto introduced its report almost two and a half years ago. They indicated that in Metropolitan Toronto alone, as of October 1980, the immediate need for additional chronic care and extended care beds was 2,070. They projected that between 1980 and 1985 we would need a total of 2,598 additional beds. The important point is that the immediate need was the day before yesterday, and that was two and a half years ago.

The ministry has failed utterly to bring in the promised beds. Instead, they have moved ahead with their cutback of active treatment beds so that the situation in our hospitals deteriorates. In the summer, when they are on short staff, it approaches a crisis in which people are at risk. From time to time during the course of the year at individual hospitals we are in a state of severe overcrowding, and I believe at many times in a critically dangerous position, because of the pressure on active treatment beds. In the meantime, nothing appears to have been done to establish additional long-term-care beds.

It is necessary to go through this preamble, because I do not know any way of explaining the concern in shorthand. I wish to ask the minister what it is that he intends to do specifically to introduce additional long-term-care beds into the system—in our general hospitals, in our nursing homes and in our homes for the aged? What are his plans, and how quickly does he intend to act? I say to the minister, please be specific and precise; we are sick of the kind of flim-flam that your predecessor has inflicted on us. There is no nice way of putting it; he has been caught out too many times.

You are a new minister and you have an opportunity to write a new chapter; so, first, I ask you—because I am a Metro member, as you are—what are your plans for Metropolitan Toronto? That is not to put any priority on that; it is simply that Metro has probably been studied to death and we have a better sense of the urgency of the crisis in Metro because the studies have been done.

I ask, first, what the minister intends to do with respect to the crisis identified two and a half years ago by the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto?

Second, and without any kind of priority, what does the minister intend to do with respect

to the establishment of long-term-care beds in the rest of the province?

3:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: First, with regard to the allegations about the last few years, may I say with respect that I do not think the figures will bear out some of the rather extreme statements you made. So that I might assist you in having—

Mr. Nixon: They were trying to close Doctors' Hospital. You know that.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, but they didn't because of some—

Mr. Nixon: It wasn't because of government policy.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Eminent good judgement finally prevailed in the government.

Mr. Nixon: A little game of hardball.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: A government that has always been open to advice.

So that you will have the figures, in point of fact I will be delighted to give you specific figures as of today. I know you are very experienced in these matters, so you will know that these figures change as hospitals put beds into service or take beds out of service. On December 31, 1975, there were 39,770 acute care beds in the province and today there are 36,341 for a total—

Mr. McClellan: I don't want to be difficult, but you are giving 1975 figures, which are rated beds, and the current figures are approved beds. Your officials know those are phoney statistics because they are apples and oranges. We have been through that before. If you want to give me comparisons you have to start in 1976, when you moved to a system of counting based on approved beds rather than rated beds.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I will be delighted. Do you want to start with December 31, 1976?

Mr. McClellan: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Okay, 38,637 acute as of December 31, 1976; 10,260 on the same date for chronic; nursing home beds, 27,111; and homes for the aged, 12,743, for a total of 88,526. Is that satisfactory?

Mr. McClellan: I have those figures.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Terrific. So the previous Minister of Health did give you the figures. I am delighted to hear you have had all these figures all these years.

Mr. McClellan: You know how many times he gave me the figures? Four times.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: So you have had them.

Mr. McClellan: This is the fourth set, and each set is different. Give us the current set.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: At least you have had this set four times, so all sets weren't different.

Mr. McClellan: No. This is the second time I have had the fourth set.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Are you ready for the current figures? I have them in this envelope. The current figures are: acute, 36,341—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: And here to accept the award—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Not quite so left-leaning, though, I might add.

Total chronic, 12,171; licensed nursing home beds, 28,295; and homes for the aged, extended care, 13,118.

Mr. McClellan: Would the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps) mind if I just took 30 seconds to point out to the minister that between August 31, 1981, and—I assume those figures are for December 31, 1981.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The last set of figures I just gave you were today's.

Mr. McClellan: As of March 30, 1982, the number of chronic care beds has declined since last August 31 from 12,575 to 12,171, so you have lost another 400-plus beds there. The number of nursing home beds has declined from 28,324 to 28,295, so you have lost another few beds there. You are up about 100 or 200 in your homes for the aged beds, and you have lost another 40 active treatment beds.

I have some bad news for you: you are moving backwards. By your own figures the number of chronic care beds is down, the number of nursing home beds is down and the number of active treatment beds is down. So what kind of policy is this? It is just nuts.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I have some bad news for you; those were the 1981 figures. Now I will give you the 1982 figures. The 1982 figures—

Mr. Nixon: Let's have the fifth list.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I regret I must disappoint my friend when he discovers that the figures are substantially up this year over last year.

Mr. Wildman: Why don't you give him the right ones then?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Just relax. I know you are a little embarrassed, but just relax.

Mr. Wildman: You should be embarrassed; you are the one who gave him the wrong figures.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: What do they call it in the movie? That was the setup, and this is the sting.

As of March 31, 1982, as estimated by us today—and we have agreed that they can only be estimated by us as of today; the final figures will be in shortly—the acute care beds are 36,636, a number which seems to me to be up substantially from last year; for total chronic, 12,588, and I know you will be distressed to find that also is up from last year.

Mr. McClellan: It is up seven beds.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Seven beds? You have to get your calculator. I have 12,588, and a year ago 12,171. You will grant me that you added wrong. What is 400 beds, eh?

Nursing home beds, 28,643; that figure also is up by 350 or so. So a pretty good figure.

Homes for the aged: I should let my colleague answer that question because they are his responsibility. It does not come under this vote.

Mr. McClellan: You can compute if you want to.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: All right, I will give you the figure. It is 12,928, which is down from last year.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Chairman, I would like to start off by telling the minister that I am new to this field and, unlike the situation with the minister who, presumably, the moment he steps into a new portfolio is omniscient and all-knowing, that is not the case in my situation. I am going through a very difficult learning process; difficult, I might add, because of the response I have received from people across this province, people who have beds in chronic care institutions, people who have beds in acute care institutions and are extremely concerned about the situation facing them.

I would like to read into the record a couple of letters that I think will put the point very acutely for the minister. He can slip around these numbers all he wants, but when you are talking about the human beings who are living in those institutions the situation is not that smug.

I received this letter from a constituent in Hamilton:

"My mother has multiple sclerosis. Five years ago I had to have her admitted to Chedoke continuing care as I was no longer able to take care of her myself. She is 55 years old and has had the disease for 26 years. She has no use of her legs, limited use of her arms and very little

use of any of her other faculties. The unfortunate part is that she is still acutely aware of her surroundings.

"In my mother's room at Chedoke there are seven other patients. Each person has a three-foot space around the bed in which to live. There is one bathroom for this room plus the room across the hall that has eight other people. One of the ladies in my mother's room is retarded and screams most of the night.

"Personal belongings are kept to a minimum as the space is so limited, and there is a surprising number of visitors or staff who feel that even the invalids are fair bait for theft.

"The staff at the CCC are just wonderful and are a great comfort to all of us who have friends and loved ones in this horrible place. This is not the only indication of unfairness. If you were to visit the continuing care facility in Hamilton, I can guarantee that you would pray God you never get sick in Hamilton. Best of luck in your report."

The minister can talk all he wants about numbers, but when there is a situation such as in the continuing care facility in my community—and this is not the only time the issue has been raised, this is not the only letter that has brought the situation to my attention—then it may be numbers to the minister; it is not numbers to people out in those communities who are living in those situations.

I would like to take another letter from another constituent, in London, a Conservative supporter—albeit in the past and not in the future. This letter is dated March 18, 1982:

3:40 p.m.

"Dear Mr. Grossman:

"It is in anger, disgust and frustration that I write to you. I am the mother of five children and a registered nurse who is still working part-time at present in a busy four-doctor office." So she is familiar with the medical field. "My husband works for the London board of education in an administrative position. However, until our youngest daughter, a 13-year-old girl, needed psychiatric help, we had no idea how lacking in these facilities the city of London is.

"We took Jennifer to a child psychiatrist, Dr. Paul Patterson. After seeing her several times he felt she needed to be hospitalized in order to receive proper treatment. He and his staff pounded on doors and begged to get her admitted to the psychiatric ward at Victoria Hospital." This is the hospital about which the

minister spoke so flippantly during question period.

"Because Jennifer is not 14 years old they refused her admittance. Dr. Patterson has been trying to open a four-bed unit at War Memorial Children's Hospital for young teens like Jennifer without success.

"The alternative—a week ago Jennifer was admitted to London Psychiatric Hospital. Here is a 13-year-old girl, a grade A student in grade 8; brought up in a loving, caring home, in need of psychiatric help. But because she is not 14 she has to go to the London Psychiatric Hospital, in with teens mostly older than she is who have been placed there by the courts. In order to survive in that setting she will have to become tough. Jennifer hates it and is begging us to take her out of it or she will go AWOL. It is a very traumatic, heart-breaking situation for all of us to be in.

"We have always been Conservatives. Six of us are able to vote and we conscientiously vote in every election. We are so disgusted with these circumstances and many other situations caused by the Conservative government here in Ontario that we have probably voted Conservative for the last time. We are not the only ones who feel this way. I would wonder how you would feel if this were your child—frustrated, angry, determined to improve the situation."

I believe the minister received that letter on March 18. I am expecting that very shortly he will have a report on that situation, as well as the situation faced by patients in chronic care in my own community of Hamilton.

But at the same time we have story after story of how these hospital cutbacks are hurting patients, real people across Ontario. It is very easy for us to sit here in this House and talk about numbers and beds and whether there should be homes for the aged looked after by the Ministry of Community and Social Services or whether they should be nursing home beds looked after by the Ministry of Health. But for those people who are forced to live out their lives in that situation, as in the chronic care facility in Hamilton, it is more than numbers.

Look at the situation in Ottawa. A hospital run by the Sisters of Charity has raised more than \$1 million in private donations for a hospital unit for the terminally ill that will have to be returned unless the province guarantees the funds to run the project. That situation has not been brought to the attention of this House but was raised in the Ottawa Citizen of March

13. I think the minister is already familiar with that situation.

In the Premier's own riding, patients' services are being cut at Peel Memorial Hospital because the provincial health ministry has not paid a \$2-million deficit the hospital has accumulated over the past two years, \$500,000 for 1980-81 and \$1.4 million for 1981-82. "If the \$1.4 million and \$500,000 aren't funded, the hospital will be in a very difficult situation," assistant administrator J. J. Penaligon says. "Without a doubt there will be cutbacks in services to the community."

In Cornwall women have been petitioning—as a matter of fact I see a lovely picture of the very attractive Minister of Health on the front page of the Cornwall edition of the *Ottawa Citizen* of March 2. "Two Cornwall women are hoping to collect 15,000 names by the end of this month on a petition to be presented to Ontario Health Minister Larry Grossman asking for additional hospital funding. 'The population must stand together to tell our members of Parliament that we need our hospital beds to remain healthy. Sometimes you have to be at your last breath before getting a bed,' says Darlene Brabant."

What has been the ministry's response to this situation? As raised by my colleague the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) in the House today, it has been to turn hospitals into private money-making organizations, a plan I might add, despite the extensive polling facilities and techniques of this government, that is not appreciated by the majority of residents in Ontario.

"About two thirds of Ontarians disagree with the provincial government's proposal that hospitals raise charges for beds and parking and try other business activities to earn extra money," according to a survey by the Ontario Hospital Association. "Of 700 Ontarians questioned about the policy, 59 per cent said they did not support the plan while 35 per cent agreed that hospitals should raise extra money in order to become less dependent on government financing."

Basically, it was pointed out to your predecessor, the Honourable Dennis Timbrell, numerous times, and I see the same intransigence on the part of the new minister, that we are moving into an area where Ontario will be developing a user-pay philosophy with respect to our hospitals. That is a completely unacceptable approach, and the decision by the provincial government to allow differential charges for semi-private and private beds is simply the thin edge of the wedge. It is the beginning of a two-price system

in health care in Ontario. It is the beginning of an erosion of universal accessibility to health care, which was one of the primal considerations in the national health act.

It is time when the new minister, in a new portfolio, can turn a new leaf and fight in cabinet so that the limited resources at present made available to the hospitals and the health sector can be extended to allow expansion in these most needed areas. Similarly, in the Ottawa area, hospitals believe the increase of 12 per cent, the increase promised in the 1982 provincial grants, will not suffice to save the institutions facing problems.

As the minister knows, the Liberal Party has attempted to address this issue by taking it to the people across the province. We will be visiting 10 communities on a fact-finding tour. It is my earnest hope that people out in the community will not be afraid to speak out, will not be intimidated by a government that is constantly warning them not to bite the hand that feeds them, and that the government will be prepared to come out into the open and let us know what the situation is in hospitals and in health institutions across the province.

If the mail I have received to date is any indication of the seriousness of the situation, the minister is going to have his hands full. You are going to have to make an immediate commitment to two things. One is a concerted effort to clean up the situation, particularly that facing the psychiatric aspect of your health delivery system. It is not only the Parkdale situation; it is not only the Toronto situation; communities like Hamilton and communities in the north are hurting.

Communities in the north are hurting because, even though they stand a greater chance of suffering from depression due to the situation of isolation in which many of the people live, they are being paid, on a per capita funded basis for health care delivery, less than people in southern Ontario. You know there is an access problem, according to a study that was done by a professor at Lakehead University. I assume those statistics are available for anybody who reads the Sudbury Star, the North Bay Nugget or the Sault Ste. Marie Star.

Mr. Wildman: We lack psychiatrists, but life up there is good.

Ms. Copps: Oh, life is good. The psychiatric problem, which is definitely a problem in northern Ontario to the best of my knowledge, is that the community of North Bay Psychiatric Hospital does not yet have a staff psychiatrist.

That problem is filtering into southern Ontario. It came to my attention in recent days that Haldimand-Norfolk mental health services do not have access on a rotating basis to a psychiatrist who used to be made available to them through the Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital. The case load on psychiatrists at the HPH is just too great now to allow it to loan out its psychiatrists on a biweekly basis to Haldimand-Norfolk mental health services.

The situation is spreading across Ontario. I pointed out during question period the problem facing the minister due to erosion and to the policy of this government of moving into an area of deinstitutionalization. I would agree that possibly the previous Minister of Health, seeing as he was moving into the area of farming and living out in a suburban area of Toronto, did not understand the impact and the shock of deinstitutionalization upon people like the people of south Parkdale.

3:50 p.m.

I believe the new downtown Minister of Health does understand that. He realizes it is a problem and probably if he sat for a day or two in his own constituency office he could find people out there who are really hurting. I know it because I see it in my own community. I am sure the minister sees it in his community, and it is about time the minister and the government stopped studying the problem and did something about it.

We were told last December that the previous Minister of Health did not have a plan for deinstitutionalization in this province and yet the gradual program to move psychiatric patients out of institutions has been ongoing for years. You have the report in hand. When are you going to do something about it to alleviate a very difficult situation facing those people who have literally been thrown out into the streets?

You can all sit here and laugh. I think it is a very interesting reaction on the part of the critic as well as the minister, but for those people out in the community who need a sound, effective delivery of health care service in this province, it is a very serious question and one which I think the minister should start to take a little seriously.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me say before I welcome the new Health critic, with regard to your last comments and to set the record straight, I would not want Hansard to indicate that the minister or, in fact, the critic for the NDP were laughing or not taking this matter

seriously. That is unfair to both myself and my critic for the NDP.

In point of fact, the reason we were sort of smiling at each other was because he was acknowledging, I think, as I was when I smiled at him, the irony that a Minister of Health finds himself in when yesterday, in your absence, he was criticizing me for trying to implement the report in order to solve the problem, and you were, a moment ago, criticizing me for not implementing it. After listening to you I got confused.

I would want the record to show that it was not a matter of us not taking this matter seriously. In fairness to the member for Hamilton Centre, neither the critic for the NDP nor myself made any issue yesterday of your absence in the House when a matter of \$88 million for supplementary estimates for this ministry was being discussed because we presumed that did not indicate a lack of interest on your part, or that you did not care about the supplementary estimates. We presumed you had a good and valid reason for not being here yesterday.

All I am saying to the honourable member is, if she wishes to spend the next several years having a constructive dialogue on the matter of health, then she should—

Mr. Sargent: She doesn't get paid \$70,000 a year like you do.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Eddie, go back to eating your sandwich up there. The only point I am making is that the member for Bellwoods and I should not—

Ms. Copps: Correct the record then but don't talk about yesterday, because it is totally irrelevant.

Mr. McClellan: Speak for yourself.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Okay, I should not be criticized for not taking this matter seriously. Let the record show the member for Hamilton Centre is now laughing.

Just to set the record straight, the member for Bellwoods and I were just noting to each other the irony involved when a minister finds himself criticized by one party for implementing and another party for not implementing the same report, which only goes to prove a very important point, which is that the answers are difficult and there are some valid arguments to be made on both sides of almost every solution one develops.

Ms. Copps: Is that why you were laughing?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I just indicated why we

were laughing. Do you want me to go through it again?

Ms. Copps: Repeat it please, if you can remember the sequence of events that far back.

Mr. Chairman: Centering in on the supplementary estimates.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: In any case, I would just urge the member for Hamilton Centre to understand that and to accept the forbearance we showed yesterday in not taking her absence as an indication of lack of interest, and, in fairness, to extend the same tolerance to her colleagues in this assembly. Having said that, may I take this opportunity to welcome—

Ms. Copps: On a point of order—

Mr. Chairman: Nothing is out of order. What is out of order?

Ms. Copps: The minister is out of order.

Mr. Chairman: No, he is not.

Ms. Copps: I do not need a lecture from him or from anybody else. There was a representative of the Liberal Party here at the supplementary estimates yesterday.

Mr. Chairman: The member is out of order.

Ms. Copps: I am not out of order.

Mr. Chairman: There is nothing out of order. Show me, in the standing orders, where the minister is out of order, or where something is out of order here.

Ms. Copps: The minister was commenting on my absence yesterday and I do not need to be lectured by the minister.

Mr. Chairman: That has nothing to do with the standing orders. Has the minister finished?

Mr. Sargent: I am going to give you \$1 for your leadership campaign.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Half a dollar will do it.

May I welcome, without lecturing, my new Health critic.

Ms. Copps: I do not think it is possible.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: May I welcome my new Health critic. I sympathize with her problems of learning about a very difficult area. I have shared that difficulty in the first six weeks—

Mr. McClellan: The member and the minister deserve each other.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I think the member for Bellwoods and the member for Hamilton Centre deserve each other.

As I said, I understand the complexities. I share with her very much the problems of learning this area and trying to struggle with these problems. I wish her well in her task force

efforts and hope the public comes forward to offer her some advice which will help her understand that this government is not negligent in the way she is suggesting.

Conversely, if the member comes back from those efforts with some constructive advice for this government, I assure her—and I am sure the task force members will so assure those people they see out on their trips—that this minister will be quite open to any suggestions or information they may glean that we do not already have. It would surprise me if they found new ideas, but if they do, I would be delighted to hear about them and to consider them.

The member for Hamilton Centre indicated that this is not a numbers game, that I should not play with numbers, that there are real people involved. I remind the member that I did not raise the question of numbers. A justifiable request was made for an up-to-date count of beds and I was responding—although this should not be taken by the Health critic for the New Democratic Party to be an indication that we think this is a matter of numbers.

On the other hand, a moment ago, after having lectured me that it is not a matter of numbers, the member for Hamilton Centre went on to discuss whether there were enough beds, by actual count, in certain parts of the province. I take exception to anyone's suggesting that we deal with this on a mechanical, numerical basis. I would not accuse this member of doing that simply because she pointed out that in her opinion there is a shortage of beds in certain parts of the province. It is a matter of real people and we are all struggling with the problem.

The honourable member refers to some problems at Chedoke-McMaster Hospital in Hamilton and suggests that it is underfunded. In fact, in the last fiscal year its budget was increased by a total of 15.8 per cent, up to almost \$60,267,000, which is a fairly substantial increase.

As to whether all the problems there have been solved, I suspect that with Hamilton's Chedoke Hospital, as with many other hospitals, problems will continue to be brought to the attention of the ministry and we will continue to deal with them. That is why, when one looks at the allocation to various hospitals throughout this province, one finds differing increased budget figures. It is because we do attempt to address the particular problems of hospitals as they come up from time to time.

4 p.m.

The member mentioned the Peel Memorial Hospital and its \$200,000 deficit. I understand the problem that you acknowledged at the top of your remarks with regard to information. With all due respect, that deficit is no longer in existence; they do not have a \$200,000 deficit. A lot of hospitals that were talking about having deficits a few weeks ago no longer have deficits for several reasons, including: (1) The ministry has gone through an appeal process and has paid off some of those deficits for the hospitals; and (2) some of the hospitals were projecting deficits which, as they got closer to the end of the fiscal year, they did not have.

With regard to the specific cases the member noted, I am distressed about the case she cited in London. I am distressed quite outside of the politics involved; it matters not to me who that poor child's parents vote for or how many votes are in the house. The fact is, it is a difficult situation and if she would continue to draw those matters to my attention, I think it would be constructive for the patients involved if she forwarded that information to us privately. We will continue to try to see, if there are any problems in the system, that those kinds of situations do not recur.

In terms of the availability of psychiatric facilities in the London area, which that case related to, we have a total of 44 beds at St. Joseph's Hospital in London, 20 psychiatric beds at University Hospital, 42 beds at London's Victoria Hospital and another 544 beds at London Psychiatric Hospital, of which 36 are adolescent.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order simply to set the record straight. The correspondence from the family in London was not directed to me; it was directed to the Minister of Health. And the letter is dated March 18; so I assume it has already been brought to the minister's attention.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The point I was making was that it had been brought to my attention. I was pointing out that if this kind of process continues, these people corresponding with the minister, I will be delighted. I do not care if they send copies to you. I just raise the concern of showing carefully considered judgement when specifics are raised in the House which may allow people to identify a particular patient and his or her problems. That kind of process where people do write to us allows us to deal with those problems as they arise. It is a good process.

I hope the member heard in question period today of the business-oriented new develop-

ment program which was raised. I did indicate that we intended to monitor the situation with the hospitals very carefully. We go into the program not that sure how it will operate because all new programs have some unpredictability involved; some are better run than others. We will be monitoring that development very seriously, hospital by hospital, as they introduce their various programs.

Mr. McClellan: Are you going to cancel the programs?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If it does not work, we will cancel it, but I am convinced it will cause some sensible rationalization to occur within the system, which is not a place where too much attention has been paid. For example, the part of the program which allows hospitals—

Mr. McClellan: I am not objecting to that part of it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I did not think the member was. That is part of the program. What he meant to say was that we should get rid of the part of the new program that we are going to—

Mr. McClellan: The part I told the minister about in question period.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I understand. I just want to be clear and understand your position as clearly as you wanted to understand the former minister's position. You have been as unclear in your position as you accused the former minister of having been in his.

In any case, I want to make this sincere pledge to the assembly. That program is a new venture. It is one that was done after a great deal of consultation with the hospital community. It is one that various hospitals are responding to in a variety of ways. The performance throughout the hospital community will undoubtedly be uneven; some will be more successful than others at it, while others will have problems with it.

We are going to watch very carefully to make sure not only that the legislation, the rules and the principles surrounding it are honoured, but also that patients are in no way affected in terms of the universality and accessibility of the system as a result of that program.

Mr. McClellan: How many cases will it take?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It will just take one for us to react. Which does not mean to say you will stand up in question period and say you have found one and ask whether I will revoke the program; I am not saying that. But I would like you to draw my attention to any instances you

get that you think violate the principles of accessibility and universality.

It might even be more helpful if you would let us know, say, one day in advance, so that when you rise in the assembly—your colleague the would-be mayor is saying “no,” but, of course, he does not want me to have the answer when you ask the question. He wants you want to make the allegation and then to go outside and say the BOND program does not work, and the next day we will come back and explain it has been fixed. It will not be such a story, but I understand.

Mr. McClellan: We will treat you as fairly as you treat us.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I have always treated you fairly—not easily, but fairly.

In any case, may I sum up by saying to the member for Hamilton Centre that I hope she will not feel I am intransigent. I do not intend to be intransigent on the BOND program. I want to make sure it works and is altered where it has to be altered.

With regard to the success of that program, she quoted some hospitals as being unhappy with it. I would quote, of course, the response of the Ontario Hospital Association to our budget increases this year. She said they were inadequate. The OHA says, and I quote:

“We think that for hospitals starting in good financial shape, 12 per cent and the promise of a review is pretty promising. It is better than we have had in years. It is a positive approach even though there are still problems.”

George Ingram of the OHA said, “On balance, a 12 per cent increase is a positive approach to some of the financial problems that are troubling hospitals.”

These are pretty positive responses from the Ontario Hospital Association.

We will be monitoring the success of BOND. I think it is important to note that, contrary to the fears raised by some members opposite that as a result of introducing this program we would be cutting the budgets to the hospitals, this year we increased our transfers to hospitals over last year in the same year we were introducing the program.

None the less, I say in all sincerity to the member for Hamilton Centre, I am not intransigent on these matters. I am very concerned about how this program will work, and we are monitoring it carefully.

With regard to the Parkdale situation and the mental health situation, I say to the honourable member that my predecessor was very sensitive

to those problems and deserves a great deal of credit for initiating some responses and taking some initial steps in that area.

As a person who represents a downtown Toronto riding, I can affirm what the member for Hamilton Centre has said. I walked the streets of downtown Toronto on a regular basis many years ago, and I have been in a position to canvass a lot of households in downtown Toronto and to spend a lot of time meeting people on the streets of downtown Toronto over the past six or seven years. I spend a lot of time in my constituency office; I meet a lot of people there and see a lot of problems firsthand.

As a result of that experience, I was not only willing but also anxious to assume these responsibilities, because I know firsthand some of these problems.

4:10 p.m.

The Queen Street situation, the situation surrounding Parkdale, the situations in all of downtown Toronto and in all of those catchment areas affected by discharged patients are ones that I regard as very serious problems and of high priority for us. They are problems that do not hold the promise of easy, simple and quick solutions but for which solutions must be found as quickly as possible. I give you my determination to try to solve those problems, together with you, at the earliest possible time.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Chairman, maybe the minister or his staff could tell me whether Bill 19 will be passed during this session.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Well, it is a new session; tell me what it is you want to know. What is the title of the bill? Just ask the question and I will give you the answer.

Mr. Sargent: Will Bill 19 be passed—

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I don't want to play with numbers as your colleague accused me of doing.

Mr. Sargent: I will ask you a third time. Will Bill 19 be passed this session?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The answer is—I know you don't know the title of the act. I have not introduced any legislation this session; so I do not have any Bill 19 on the Order Paper. Why don't you ask me what it is you want?

Mr. Sargent: Bill 19 is an Act to amend the Mental Health Act. It was passed by all the mental health associations of Ontario in 1978 and was to come before the House for passing. It relates to a very serious situation in our province that happens when an individual faces committal without any legal representation. It

proposes to change committal procedures and to allow for disclosure of patients' clinical records and revised procedures of hearings before review boards.

What input do elected people have in this Legislature? The tail is wagging the dog when highly paid officials can make decisions that affect the lives of the people of Ontario. We have the worst record in all of Canada in this field of psychiatric care. We have been waiting four years now for this bill to be passed; so what's going to happen under your hotshot administration?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Under my low-key but very effective and efficient administration, I can tell you just so it will simplify it the next time you ask me the question. Since there is no Bill 19 of my ministry on the Order Paper now, I think the question referred to Bill 19 of several sessions ago, which subsequently was enacted.

Mr. Sargent: It was an Act to amend the Mental Health Act.

The Deputy Chairman: The honourable minister has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I remind the member that act was passed by this assembly.

Mr. Sargent: It has not been passed.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I believe what he is referring to is that while the act has been passed there are certain sections of the act which have not been proclaimed by the government up to the present time.

With regard to the unproclaimed portions of the amendments to the act or, as the member calls it, Bill 19 of several sessions ago, may I say that I have asked for a full review of that. I have already reviewed the unproclaimed sections and the problems surrounding the proclamation of those sections.

I know the member will be relieved and interested to know that with all of the matters I have had to deal with in my first six weeks on the job—including the hospital budgets, the budget allocations for next year, the deficits and the doctors' negotiations, not to mention the problems surrounding Queen Street, all of which have taken a great deal of my time in my first six weeks—I have made it my business to spend some time studying the unproclaimed sections of that bill and discussing the problems of implementing them and proclaiming them. I hope to be able to say something more about that in the next little while.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, I will not take very long—

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You said that before.

Mr. McClellan: I was lying. I have already made my speech and I do not intend to make it again, but my question was not answered; so I have to ask it again.

I had asked the minister whether he would give us—not now, necessarily—a complete statement of his plans with respect to the implementation of additional long-term-care beds—chronic care beds, extended care beds, nursing home beds and homes for the aged beds.

You have given me a whole set of figures. I am always pleased to get those. I collect numbers from the Minister of Health as some dogs collect fleas, I suppose, but—

Hon. Mr. Grossman: A good analogy.

Mr. McClellan: But which is the dog and which is the flea?

The nursing home figures still indicate that the promises of the minister's predecessor regarding additional nursing home beds even for Metro have yet to be implemented, and we are not even talking about needs outside of Metropolitan Toronto. My understanding is that the situation identified by the hospital council is virtually identical today to what it was two and a half years ago.

Will the minister prepare for us a comprehensive statement of his concrete and specific plans which have been approved—that is to say, for which money has been budgeted—for the additional beds, broken down into the categories I have given? Then we can have a clear idea of what his intentions are with respect to all the wonderful promises that have been made since 1978.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the 300 beds spoken of earlier and promised by my predecessor for Metro, there are now 82 that are in operation and being occupied, and 214 others will be opened within the next 12 months; that is, they are in the process of being built and put in place.

Mr. McClellan: Those are the beds that were promised two and a half years ago.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I can only report the facts as they are—and there they are.

With regard to your request that I table a complete plan, I intend to deal with whatever added facilities I can provide to meet the immediate clearly identifiable needs in the not-too-distant future. In other words, soon I

hope to have some interim measures to announce to alleviate the problem.

I am determined in this ministry not only to solve the immediate problems but also to begin to solve these problems in a longer-term sense. This is not to say we are going to ignore the short-term and real problems of today, but I am determined to do these things in a co-ordinated medium-term and long-term fashion. We do not want to be in a situation where you are coming back here year after year—perhaps at a later time with some justification, but I hope not—saying, “You promised X, and you produced X minus three or X minus 30 this year.”

I hope to be able to arrive at a situation where I can lay out for you and for myself a long-term strategy to solve the problem. That will involve co-ordination with my sister ministry, ComSoc. But I find the current situation one that I am not comfortable with.

Mr. Laughren: Maybe you can get some BILD money for it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I have spent it all. If I had only known.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mugged in the corridors of power.

4:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They were and are great projects. But I do intend to deal with the matter of extended care beds in a co-ordinated fashion, so that my colleague will not be expecting that implementation plan and that response from me tomorrow morning or next week. It is going to take me some time to draw some conclusions. I do not want to be rash about it, and I do not want to have short-term, Band-Aid solutions. It is going to take me a period of time to reach some conclusions.

Mr. McClellan: That sounds like “the fullness of time.”

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That's not fair. Perhaps not on the record in Hansard and certainly not in the media, but in the back rooms I suspect you would acknowledge that, at least in my previous jobs, when I gave commitments and set out new policy thrusts, whether or not you agreed with them, I had a record of following through on those things. You might have thought the policies were wrong, but you would have to acknowledge, although not publicly—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Bad hook on the swing, but you did follow through.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I appreciate your acknowledging that voluntarily. But I really do

follow through on those things, and I can promise the same kind of dedication and determination in this job, though it is more complex and difficult. I like to believe that one of the reasons I am here is that the Premier (Mr. Davis) wanted me to do the same kind of thing.

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Try anything you want. I am open for questions on that.

The Deputy Chairman: The honourable minister will respond to the question.

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Chairman, I have listened carefully to the debate on these supplementary estimates, and I think it is unfortunate that we seem to make so light of the inadequate health services that we are obviously providing to the people of this province.

I read two or three weeks ago in Today magazine an article entitled “Madness in South Parkdale,” I think it was. As I read, I asked myself several times: “Can this possibly happen in a country like Canada? Or is it only happening in Ontario? Is this perhaps one of the reasons so many Ontario people are leaving to other jurisdictions?”

I know jobs are probably one of the main reasons they are leaving, but I also wonder whether they are not taking a look at the services that are provided by this government and coming to the conclusion that if they are going to look after the sick and the elderly they may have to go to other jurisdictions to get that kind of service.

As I continued to read that article my blood really started to boil, because I soon came to the conclusion that this type of thing does not have to happen. I recall that back in the years when the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller) was the Minister of Health, the government adopted a policy of closing hospitals to cut back on health expenditures. It was an ill-conceived policy, and I am pleased to see that his immediate successor, the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell) and, I hope, his most recent successor, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), will never try to implement such a policy again. As a matter of fact, when we were dealing with the Public Hospitals Act last session, the then minister gave me a commitment that the government would never again adopt a policy of closing hospitals.

But it is unfortunate that we see these mental

patients without any kind of care, as was indicated in that article, when I well recall the Ministry of Health closing down the Goderich Psychiatric Hospital, the hospital that was acclaimed by countries such as England as the best hospital of its kind for the treatment of psychiatric patients. I think it will leave a scar not only on the people of Huron and surrounding areas but also on the people of Ontario that such a hospital was closed.

I have received letters from people from inside and outside my riding—some are members of the cloth—who read "Madness in South Parkdale" and reflected on the closing of the Goderich Psychiatric Hospital. They could not believe that this type of thing was still happening. Then we read that some 900 patients have escaped from the Queen Street Mental Health Centre owing to lack of security.

I wonder if we really care about the sick, the frail and the elderly of this province. The elderly are a concern we are going to have to direct particular attention to before we travel many more miles down the road. I have always believed that we could reduce hospital expenditures if we provided more home care services for the elderly.

The minister knows that the Ministry of Community and Social Services has developed a new homemaker services program, which I understand will be funded by that ministry but administered by the Ministry of Health, with fees paid through the existing home care offices. This plan would provide homemakers to adult frail, elderly or handicapped persons to enable them to stay in their own homes without the need for medical and professional services.

I understand that the government is selecting five or six areas in which to start this plan. I recognize that the selection may well be a political decision, but I hope the minister will find it beneath his dignity to base selection on politics.

In rural Ontario, we have a large number of senior citizens. Exeter has a population of between 3,500 and 4,000 of whom well over 1,000 are elderly citizens. In Huron county alone, there are 59,000 people, or 13 per cent of the population, over age 65.

When the minister selects areas for this new home care service program, I hope he will consider rural areas such as Huron county, which has already approached him on this matter. However, the response has been that as they do not have a chronic care program they are ineligible for this new home care program. If

the minister will check his correspondence he will see that this, basically, was the response he gave to those people.

Huron county has been applying since 1977, I believe, for a chronic care program. But if they have received acknowledgement of these applications from the minister's predecessors, the fact is that approval of such a program has not been granted by the ministry. Now they are told they will not be eligible for the new program because they do not have a chronic care program in place.

I plead with the minister to give Huron county every consideration when he is selecting areas for this new pilot program. If he continues to feel they do not qualify for the new program because they do not have a chronic care program in place, I hope he will seriously consider approving a chronic care program for Huron county.

4:30 p.m.

In rural Ontario, we seem to be a voice in the wilderness, but it is also in rural Ontario where you will find, I believe, the greatest number of senior citizens and people to whom we are going to have to direct more of our attention as time goes on. With as much good grace as I can offer at this time to the minister, I simply plead with him to give areas like Huron county every consideration when he sets up his areas of the new home care program, or expands the chronic care program, so that Huron county may well be included in that.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to pre-empt too much time of the committee, but I think it is incumbent upon me at this time, when the minister is coming before the committee to ask for an additional \$88 million, to bring to his attention the acute need for additional funding for hospitals in northern Ontario which suffer from the same inflationary pressures that everybody in the province does, but to a much greater extent because they are not able to effect economies of scale, because of isolation and because they have to do a lot on their own. The services available in large urban centres in Ontario are just not available to the same extent in the north.

When you talk about the delivery of life support systems, I want to put a plea in for at least a portion of that \$88 million on behalf of the hospitals in northern Ontario. I want to deal specifically with Nipigon District Memorial Hospital where it is so bad they are even putting patches on the patches on the bed sheets. By

way of highlighting the problem for the minister, since he is new to this portfolio, I want to give him some idea of the problems facing another hospital, in Marathon. It is operating at quite a deficit this year. It has made application to the ministry for special funding.

On my last visit to Marathon the newly arrived surgeon—he is the only surgeon we have in the riding of Lake Nipigon, and operates out of the Wilson Memorial General Hospital in Marathon—approached me, accompanied by the administrator of the hospital, to ask me if there was any source of funds so that they could get much needed medical equipment for their operating room.

I have written to all the foundations operating in Ontario and Canada that indicate they will provide funding for health purposes for very needy cases and, particularly, for northern communities or small communities that do not have the necessary tax base and a sufficient number of people to generate the capital to pay the local costs of operating the hospitals and the delivery of life support systems. I would like to use this letter to explain much more succinctly, in a shorter period of time than I can, the problems being faced by hospitals like the Wilson Memorial in Marathon. I quote:

"The list of equipment we requested assistance in purchasing is essential in maintaining the high quality of health care in our community and the surrounding area. We have approached the ministry requesting extra funds, but to no avail. We are encountering a deficit of approximately \$160,000 in this year's operating budget and have sent an appeal to the ministry to cover the deficit, but to no avail at this time."

They are presenting this appeal to the financial people in the ministry some time this coming week.

"The equipment we are requesting assistance in purchasing is either new or necessary to replace antiquated pieces we are presently using. This new equipment will enable Dr. G. Perales to perform the necessary operations. Our hospital serves an area of approximately 7,000 square miles with a total population of approximately 12,000 people. As you know, a large percentage are now unemployed and the acquisition of funds is very limited. Being an isolated area, and providing major surgery to this area, we have to ensure that all equipment is of the highest calibre with little or no risk to the patient.

"The population of the area, that is from White River to Schreiber, is very quickly

reaching their golden years. This means the time spent in the operating room must be kept to a minimum, thus the request for this equipment. Prior to the arrival of our surgeon, the population had to travel to Thunder Bay, a round trip of 645 kilometres, or four hours minimum on the highway. Once they arrived in Thunder Bay they would not be guaranteed a bed, and in some instances they had to spend a few nights in a motel room at their own expense.

"Also, the availability of beds is at a premium and these elective patients could wait many months before being accepted. Dr. Perales is also operating more and more on Jehovah's Witnesses, which, as you know, could be very delicate work, thus making the latest equipment on the market a must. We are finding the hospitals in Thunder Bay are very grateful we are doing surgery on these people, that is locally in Marathon. I hope this information will be of some help to you in acquiring the necessary funds. We would like to thank you for your assistance and help and wish you success.

"Sincerely, M. D. Foley, administrator of the Wilson Memorial General Hospital."

He is not being overly dramatic in emphasizing the need and the pressures placed on small, remote, isolated hospitals in providing a modicum of health services. I am not being overly dramatic, but I thought that would highlight more succinctly and more earnestly than anything else I could have done to bring your attention to the fact that we hope people in northern hospitals like Nipigon and Marathon will get a piece of the action in this \$88 million you are requesting of the Legislature at this time.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Chairman, I have just a couple of short remarks. One of these deals precisely with the point that was raised by my colleague, the member for Huron-Middlesex, involving the extension of the service of chronic home care to the Huron county area, and in particular, dealing with the application by the Town and Country Homemakers for the operation of that program. I see that as a great way of reducing potential costs to the hospitals in terms of the need for those chronic care beds in our hospitals.

It is an extremely large problem for the communities in our area because we find we tend to have an undersupply of nursing homes, we tend to have an undersupply of chronic care beds and we tend to have waiting lists to get into all those facilities. If we could have that program in our area we would, to a great extent,

alleviate the pressure on those services, and perhaps alleviate the necessity of having some of our hospitals applying for extra money.

I would also like to bring to the minister's attention the problem of some of those seniors who are staying in chronic care beds in hospitals. I note that in January of this year there was an increase of \$11.88 in their supplement through the federal government. I wrote to you earlier, not that long ago, but I wanted to bring this particular matter addressed to me by one of my constituents to your attention.

I have discovered through information given to me by Mr. Eaton of Wingham that right after his mother-in-law received the increase of \$11.88 through the federal government he received a letter from the Ministry of Health indicating that the cost of the care his mother was receiving was going up by \$11.87. That means she netted a one-cent increase on her cheque.

4:40 p.m.

In relation to that sort of increase, I want to elicit some sort of response as to why this type of action is being taken with respect to seniors. It seems the chronic care patients in particular, while they are required to stay in the facilities supplied over the last number of years, have not been able to increase in any sense the absolute amount of money they have at their disposal for a comfort allowance.

I think what the extension of care to seniors outside the hospitals might do is facilitate a less expensive method of looking after our seniors. It could probably give them some sort of dignity in allowing them to stay in their houses rather than having to go to hospitals where they will pass their remaining days.

I wanted to bring those matters to the minister's attention, and I trust, as he has said before, he will use his good offices to deal very expeditiously with these sorts of problems.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, I have one very short question to the minister. Yesterday, when he spoke on the introduction of the estimates, he mentioned the ministry had provided seven new CAT scanners to hospitals recently as part of the improvement in high-technology equipment. He mentioned that of those seven, five had gone to Toronto hospitals. He listed those, and I was disappointed to note that Toronto East General Hospital is not among those listed.

This hospital serves not only my area but that of the member for York East (Mr. Elgie). It has over 600 beds. I had inquired of the medical

director a while ago, when I read in the paper about these new scanners in Toronto, whether he thought they needed one. He said, "We certainly do need one very badly, and we have been asking for one for two or three years."

I would like to ask the minister if he can explain what criteria they use to decide which of the Toronto hospitals should have CAT scanners and which ones should not. The Toronto East General Hospital has a very heavy load of treatment for senior citizens who have a wide variety of illnesses. It has a large maternity ward and a great number of orthopaedic patients and I think it has the busiest emergency department in Toronto. It seems to me it probably would be able to make use of a CAT scanner. I do not know whether a CAT scanner fits into emergency service or not; I am not knowledgeable enough on the technical uses of it.

I would like to ask what criteria were used in the choice of the five hospitals, why Toronto East General Hospital was not included and when it will be able to expect a CAT scanner?

Mr. Newman: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to make a few comments on this vote by referring to an experience I had less than two weeks ago. An elderly gentleman living in a nursing home in my community took seriously ill and was moved to Grace Hospital. The procedures followed were first-class. However, as soon as the wife of the individual who was hospitalized came back to the nursing home she was told immediately, "We will hold that bed for your husband for only three days."

It put her in a very invidious position. She had to write a cheque or provide funds so that her husband, on being discharged from the hospital, would be assured of accommodation in the nursing home. It points out the shortages of nursing homes in the Windsor area. Even though a certain number have been assigned or a certain increase has been promised for the area, it still is not going to meet the need in the community.

I wish the minister or his officials could have an opportunity to read a suggestion I made in this House probably 15 years ago that we consider a baby bonus in reverse, where people would be given a sort of "grandfather bonus" for taking care of their elderly parents or grandparents, who may not feel well but who could be accommodated fairly comfortably in their home instead of in an institution in the community, which in my estimation would probably be more expensive and also would not provide the same

type of tender loving care that some children would give their parents or grandparents.

There are two points here that I want to repeat. In spite of the fact that you may be providing additional nursing home space in the community, there will still be a substantial shortage, in my estimation. I am subject to any correction the minister may want to present. I do know all three of the Windsor members get all kinds of requests concerning assistance to people who want nursing home accommodation. Fortunately, the city uses the correct procedure, where everything goes through a central source and they get on the waiting list and are accommodated when their turn comes up. However, the fact that you have to have a waiting list indicates the acute and severe shortage in the community.

The next consideration is the one I mentioned of a baby bonus or some type of financial arrangement with children so that, instead of accommodating their parents or relatives in some government supported institution or home, the children can be offered the option of taking care of their own parents for some type of remuneration, which would in some instances supplement a meagre income. Those are the two suggestions I would like to make to the minister.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Chairman, the last several speakers have made some quite useful comments, which I will consider as time goes on. In order to help them with regard to some of the points they made—and I hope I do not miss many of them other than the ones I intend to miss—may I say to the members for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) and Huron-Bruce (Mr. Elston)—the latter has left, but the former, I'm sure, will relay it to him—that I know the member for Huron-Middlesex knows me to be a sometimes decently partisan politician but always a fair one when it comes to applying government programs, and that there will be no political considerations in implementing chronic home care programs throughout the province.

It is my hope that we can implement chronic home care programs throughout the province in the course of this coming year, because it has a very high priority with me. While I cannot allow the members to go home this weekend and say they have extracted an undertaking from the minister to introduce chronic home care in Huron county, as I know they would like to and probably will, it is my hope that I will be able to accomplish that goal some time within this fiscal

year. I am rather hopeful about that, and I will continue to work on it.

4:50 p.m.

My friend the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) has identified some matters for me that really do cause me some concern. The whole question of underserved areas, the problem of providing first-class medical care in the north without allocating resources in such a way that we are not sensibly managing the system, is something I really would like to deal with and have already asked some questions about. We have identified some problems and they are very real concerns. I want to acknowledge that right away. I do not know what the easy solutions to those are, but we will be looking at them. It troubles me.

The hospital my friend mentions in Marathon—it may not end with as large a deficit as this, but it looks like it may end with a \$169,000 deficit; that is just a projection and it may come in lower—did get a 16.4 per cent increase, well above the provincial average for this year. In fact, when its administrators came in to see us appealing for more money to wipe out the deficit, \$51,000 additional money was given to them to bring the deficit down to where it is.

Obviously that is a situation that does not solve the problem, but, as we went through yesterday, we feel the hospitals that are left with deficits have some capability to deal with those deficits in one way or another. If they have difficulty during the year, as I indicated when I announced the global transfers to hospitals this year, we will have a look at it again without holding out any false hopes.

At the Nipigon hospital, as you know, they not only do not have a deficit projected for the end of this year, but their increase was far above the provincial average. They got a 22.3 per cent increase this past year. In terms of cash flow on an operating basis to the hospitals in the north generally, and those two specifically, the ministry has treated them fairly well and is sensitive to some of the problems the member has indicated.

The question of equipment and the lack of ability to raise money in the community and of the financial base there to do so is of real concern and is something we have to deal with. It has been acknowledged, as the member will know, in terms of building projects in the north where we have a smaller percentage—one sixth instead of two sixths required to be raised from the community—and that part of it has seemed

to have worked fairly well. But I have heard what the member says and I will consider that.

As well, I want to assure the member for Lake Nipigon that among my priorities will be things such as telemedicine, which will help services in the north. My background in the other ministry has given me some insight into health care products, microelectronics and some of the advances made there. I hope to be able to introduce some of those things.

The member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. Newman) raised some good points. I will consider the latter recommendation he made. The former one indicates a problem we continue to face, as raised by the members here, in keeping up with the changing needs for more extended beds throughout the province. We have talked about the shift away in previous years from acute to chronic and extended care beds. That trend will continue and whether we are able to keep up is certainly a challenge for this minister. I want to be able to keep up with the changing demands. One of the ways we do keep up is by dealing in the chronic home care field.

Obviously situations where we can keep people in their communities not only saves us money, which is important, but not nearly as important as having people in the proper setting. In my view, to have them in their own homes, in the homes of their families, wherever in the community, provided there are adequate community facilities, so that they are getting Meals on Wheels, homemaker services, adequate recreation, all those things, is far preferable to a situation of automatic institutionalization where they do not get some of the things they might get in a community.

On the other hand, to have chronic home care, you cannot have it in name without having it in fact. You must have the infrastructure in place to provide those other services to the people there. We really want to do that in a meaningful way.

Mr. Newman: Why not pay the children of the parents to take care of them rather than put them into any type of public facility?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Sorry. Would you repeat that?

Mr. Newman: Why not make some type of financial arrangements with the children to take care of their own parents? If they cannot take care of their own parents because they cannot afford it financially, those parents will go into some government subsidized facility or into a paid facility. Whereas, if the children wished to,

they could take care of their own parents, if they were provided with some remuneration for taking care of their father or mother.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am going to think about that a bit, but my initial reaction is that I like to think there are not very many families that are institutionalizing their parents because they are not getting a cheque from the government to keep them home. I like to believe families like to keep their parents in their homes and will go to any extreme possible, and that an extra amount of money each month is not a determining factor in whether one keeps grandmother or grandfather at home or ships them off to another facility. However, there is always a grey ground, an area in the middle, where it might merit some further study, so I will—

Mr. Grande: You are missing the point.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, I am not. I am understanding.

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: The minister has the floor; there is still further opportunity for other members—

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, there is not. Do not encourage him.

May I also say to the member for Windsor-Walkerville that he has identified a very important problem, which is about patients who leave nursing homes to go into hospitals for likely a short period of time and are told they have three days to get back to hold that bed. That is not a satisfactory situation at the present time, and I have asked my staff to bring forward some proposals as alternatives to the current situation. I hope to have something to report to this House shortly, if we can find something, but it is a problem identified and I have asked for some solutions to be developed.

Finally, the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) asked why a CAT scanner was not put into Toronto East General Hospital. As the member no doubt knows, we rely upon the district health council to indicate the priorities as it sees them. She knows the district health council is broadly based in the community, it is not dominated. The government has municipal representation on it and I believe, most recently, I saw they had ranked eight hospitals for CAT scanners as they became available. I think East General was seventh or eighth on the list, and there were four to be allocated last program. We usually follow the district health council guidelines because they have proven to be very effective in the past. That is where they

rank and one day when, as we hope, more money becomes available, you know where their ranking is.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Chairman, briefly, I would like to ask the minister if he has given any thought to the first test-tube twins that were born in Oakville last week? I think this is a question that, of course, goes far beyond—

The Deputy Chairman: Do you have any questions having to do with the estimates? I want to make sure it is tied into that, which I have not heard so far.

Mr. Di Santo: Sure, Mr. Chairman, because—

The Deputy Chairman: I am just raising the question. How does it tie into the estimates, please?

Mr. Di Santo: I am raising a question within the administration of the hospitals, because public funds will be involved in that.

The Deputy Chairman: I am sorry, this is not part of the estimates as they have been presented and debated. I know it is a wide-ranging debate, but tie it in better, that is all I am asking.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Chairman, I think this is part of the supplementary estimates we are discussing.

The Deputy Chairman: What is your point? I certainly want to give every opportunity for wide-ranging discussion but it should have some relevance to the specifics.

5 p.m.

Mr. Di Santo: If you will allow me to continue, perhaps you will understand my point, Mr. Chairman.

The Deputy Chairman: I just wanted to make sure that you are aware of that, because although we are in committee we still like to make sure we speak to the motion.

Mr. Di Santo: All right. Serious questions have been asked about the ethics of human conception in laboratories and—

The Deputy Chairman: I am sorry, I have to rule on the item before us and say it is out of order.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Chairman, what is the item before us?

The Deputy Chairman: The item before us is the Ministry of Health's estimates, vote 3202, institutional health services program; item 4, institutional care services.

Mr. Di Santo: Exactly. If you will turn the page, Mr. Chairman, you will see that—

The Deputy Chairman: Unless the honourable member can do something to satisfy the chair that his question has to do with the estimates before us now, which do not include the estimates of the whole ministry but just one specific part, I must ask the member to deal specifically with the issue. Otherwise, I will have to go to another member who wishes to raise a point.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Chairman, I am trying to make it clear that I am talking about an issue which is directly related to the services in hospitals, which come under the supplementary estimates that we are discussing.

The Deputy Chairman: I am not convinced. Please try again. If I remain unconvinced, I will rule you out of order.

Mr. Di Santo: I don't understand, Mr. Chairman, why you are so nasty with me. I was trying only—

The Deputy Chairman: I do not want to be nasty with you, I really don't. I would like to give you every chance, as I have done with everyone else. It is not my desire to be unreasonable.

Mr. Di Santo: I am only trying to make a very short point. I would like to ask the minister if he has given any thought to the matter, since public money will be involved in the research and probably in the development of in vitro fertilization. I think everybody agrees that as long as this new experiment will permit childless couples to have children, it is a step forward.

The Deputy Chairman: I rule the question out of order. The honourable member is out of order. Does any other member wish to participate in this debate?

Mr. Di Santo: But, Mr. Chairman—

The Deputy Chairman: I have ruled you out of order. Unless you have another question to raise, you do not have the floor.

Mr. Di Santo: I think I could challenge your ruling.

The Deputy Chairman: You cannot challenge my ruling in committee. Does any other honourable member wish to participate in this debate?

Mr. Breaugh: You have just been challenged.

The Deputy Chairman: One cannot appeal in the committee. The appeal is to the House. The chair's ruling stands.

Mr. Breaugh: Are you saying, Mr. Chairman, that the rules of this House in committee do not

provide for a challenge of the chair? Since when, may I ask?

The Deputy Chairman: I draw the attention of the honourable member to section 84 of the standing orders: "(a) The standing orders of the House shall be observed in committees of the whole House so far as may be applicable, except the standing orders as to the seconding of motions and limiting the number of times of speaking. (b) The chairman shall maintain order in committees of the whole House and decide all questions of order subject to an appeal to the House; but disorder in a committee can only be censured by the House on receiving a report thereof."

I have indicated to the member that if further action is to be taken, it will be taken to the House and not in this committee.

Mr. Breagh: Excuse me for saying so but I believe the proper procedure would be for the committee to rise and report that there has been a challenge to the chair and then the House will have a vote on it.

The Deputy Chairman: You could move that the committee rise and report and then such a motion could be taken at that time.

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: I have made a ruling that the question that has been asked about the Ministry of Health estimates is not in order. Now, is there anyone else who wishes to participate in this debate?

Vote 3202 agreed to.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

On vote 2103, environmental control program; item 4, plant development and construction:

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I will make a few remarks at the opening, primarily to try to explain clearly to the honourable members opposite specifically what is involved in the \$30 million supplementary estimates that are before us.

I think first of all it is—

Mr. Wildman: Why weren't the House members told that before now?

The Deputy Chairman: The honourable members will allow the minister to make his opening comment. There will be plenty of opportunity for debate, discussion, questions and whatever.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The supplementary estimates before us do not in any way affect cash

requirements. We are not seeking approval for increased money or increased expenditures other than in a bookkeeping sense. The \$30 million relates to the transfer from the province to municipalities of the control, the ownership and the operation of sewage treatment plants. Since that is being done at the request of the municipalities and since they have expressed the desire to take over the operation and, therefore, the ownership of the asset, which, while under provincial ownership and operation appears as an unamortized asset on the books of the province, the transfer requires that there be a writing off of that asset from the provincial books.

As has been indicated as far back, I believe, as 1978, when municipalities are willing and able to take over the operation of their own sewage works and when they are interested in doing so, we will as a matter of policy encourage them to do so and try to facilitate that. It is expected that in the next few years as much as a total of \$150 million will have to be written off in this way. We are proceeding this year on the basis of a \$30 million write-off, which will affect only those municipalities that have expressed this intention and that in all cases have already taken over the operation of the sewage treatment plant.

What we are talking about applies only to sewage treatment plants that are in the process of being transferred to the municipalities from provincial control.

Mr. Charlton: You are trying to limit the discussion.

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, I am just trying to make it clear so you do not run the risk of wandering afield.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Chairman, I think it might have been easier for all members concerned had the minister's little preamble been addressed to us before this time. I know that when I looked at the supplementary estimates as they were delivered to my office, all I could see here was an apparent expenditure of \$30 million with absolutely no information available to determine how I would approach dealing with the supplementary estimates. It becomes a little bit difficult to—

Mr. Wildman: That's what I said. Why didn't he tell us before now?

Mr. Elston: That's what I am asking.

Interjection.

5:10 p.m.

Mr. Elston: Unfortunately, I did not under-

stand what was being done. I think in future supplementary estimates the Minister of the Environment could think about accompanying the material with a little more information than just a statement of an expenditure, or an apparent expenditure, at least, of \$30 million.

There were several issues that came to mind. Perhaps if we could extend this for a couple of days as we did with the Minister of Health who has just been through his, we will get a number of answers to a number of issues.

I would like to know what part of this \$30 million would go to a facility like that at Durham which is now almost complete and which we now understand will be mothballed because its preparation predates the expansion of population in that area by a considerable number of years? It seems to me that because the planning projections made several years were faulty, we have committed a large volume of funds which could have been put to better use in other areas. I particularly note that some of those areas are in my own riding where there are some problems dealing with sewage disposal because of soil conditions, and perhaps the possibility of expansion in relation to the Bruce energy centre. The people in some of the little towns around that area would be very happy if they could receive a commitment of funds which obviously have been put into this Durham centre.

As well, it seems to me that perhaps it is time for a clear statement of the criteria the ministry uses to determine the set of priorities used to rate various municipalities in respect of their sewage treatment facilities. I know that in the riding of Huron-Bruce, we have just recently gone through construction of facilities in the village of Blyth and also in the village of Brussels, but those came after 10 and 12 years of waiting and wondering whether or not the programs would go through. I cannot help but think that had there been some movement on the installation of those facilities in the 1960s when they were initially thought of, there could have been a saving of many millions of dollars.

I wonder as well if you could provide for us the number of facilities included in what is known as "certain facilities qualifying for assistance." This is under the heading on the second page of the estimates, page 10. Perhaps it would be a lesson for all of us if we could decipher how you determine who gets the money, and when and in what manner you apportion it.

The other thing that comes from this Durham project which is being mothballed is that we

must come to grips with how your planning process is working and how you are refining your planning process to take this overprojection of population into account.

All of these are critical areas. Perhaps if this planning error had not occurred at what I guess is called the Port Darlington sewage plant, we might very well have had other centres in Ontario able to deal with their sewage treatment problems at this time.

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Algoma.

Mr. Wildman: Is the minister not going to respond to that?

The Deputy Chairman: He will probably make notes.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I may as well respond to everyone at once.

Mr. Wildman: Okay, fine. Mr. Chairman, I have a question with regard to the transfer of ownership—

The Deputy Chairman: How do you want it? Do you want it answered? It is just he was standing so fast that I wondered—

Mr. Wildman: It is fine with me. Whichever you prefer, Mr. Chairman.

The Deputy Chairman: The minister is easy. He is aware of the questions that have been asked, so carry on, the member for Algoma.

Mr. Wildman: I have a question regarding the transfer of the ownership of the sewage system in the township of White River, which is currently owned by the provincial government. I understand the ministry has been encouraging the township to take over ownership of that system, and the understanding of the township is that the ministry seems to be taking the position that further upgrading of the system would not take place until the transfer is completed. I would like to know if that is the case.

As the minister will know, in 1978 after a number of years of negotiation, his ministry did purchase this very old water system from the Canadian Pacific Railway. This was after the ministry had a number of studies made that indicated sewage and water systems in White River were inadequate and should be upgraded. In 1975, the ministry reduced the original scheme and did invest a large amount of money in a smaller sewage system than was originally planned. But, as I understand it, in the discussions between the municipality and the provincial

government the municipality so far has not agreed to take over ownership of the system.

I think the municipality's fear in completing these negotiations is that the sewage system in the community needs further upgrading, as does the water system. It needs to be completed. As a matter of fact, a number of studies have been done that have shown the community may face very serious problems next winter unless work is done this year. It fears that if it does take over ownership without a clear commitment from the provincial government it may then be directly responsible, certainly with the assistance of the ministry, for carrying out the upgrading.

I know the township council has written to the minister to that effect. I hope he can allay their fears and give us some indication as to the ministry's position in regard to the negotiations, and in regard to whatever commitments the provincial government is prepared to make.

In the letter to the minister the township council states, "It now appears that the current MOE policy is that no firm commitments to upgrade the system can be made until the system is taken over and owned by the municipality." That is from a letter dated March 16 to the minister. The council pointed out that this problem has been going on for four years, the system has been deteriorating badly, there is low water pressure, the system has frozen up, and there have been all sorts of problems. It does indicate there has been good co-operation between ministry staff and the municipality in terms of trying to operate the current system.

I have had discussions with the ministry staff and with the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) and his staff, with regard to this problem. Of course, the problem the municipality has in agreeing to take over the system, which needs upgrading, is that it is aware of the fact that the Ontario Municipal Board would not allow it to borrow at the levels that would be required in order for it to upgrade the system and complete it unless there was additional special funding over and above the normal ministry grants which, although they are generous, would not be enough to bring it up to a level that the OMB would approve in terms of borrowing by the municipality.

I hope the minister can respond to that. I also wonder if he is as yet in receipt of the petition signed by about 300 people, and dated March 18, in which they request commitments from the ministry and from the provincial government for upgrading, and invite the minister to a

meeting on April 13 to discuss the matter with them. I hope he can discuss this in the context of the transfer of the ownership of the system from the ministry to the municipality.

The Deputy Chairman: I will ask the Minister of the Environment to begin his answer because it might become too long for the other honourable members to remember the question.

5:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I was rather hoping that all the questions relating to the transfer of the sewage treatment plants might be asked in a relatively short period of time, but if it is the wish of the committee and the chairman I will respond.

First of all, responding to the comments of the member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Elston), I would point out that in these particular figures there is nothing specifically earmarked for what he referred to as the Durham plant. I am not aware of any formal mothballing of that plant. I think what he may be referring to is the fact that it will not be functioning at capacity because of the growth projections in the York-Durham sewer system.

As far as the specific population growth projections upon which that was originally based are concerned, those were figures arrived at and relied upon back in the early part of the last decade. If you will recall, at that time there were a number of activities going on in that area including the proposed new federal airport at Claremont which I, at that time, had some very direct interest in since they were about to pave over my ancestral roots in that community. There was also the north Pickering project which—

Mr. Elston: You mean they wouldn't take them up first?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not sure whether they had thought that far or if they were even sensitive to my ancestral roots. I did not say pave over my ancestors, I said ancestral roots. There are a number of major schemes in that area that have been shelved in the last 10 years—the airport has been shelved for an indefinite period of time and the north Pickering project for a period of time—in terms of the kind of community development and residential development that was envisaged to go forward with the development of that airport. It has had a major impact on the demand that will be placed upon that sewer and upon the sewage treatment system.

I have forgotten the specific community that

you referred to in your part of the province, but I think it is interesting that you commented that had we gone ahead with one there some several years ago, it would have been much less costly than it would be today, and that is true. I would hope that in another few years you would say the same thing about Durham. When the demand is there and we are able to fully utilize the capacity that is built into that plant, then you will be able to recognize the wisdom of the planning that went into the—

Mr. Elston: It is sort of like the wisdom behind the purchase of all of those land holdings around the province. We at some point bear the cost.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is right. I would venture to say that probably the cost of that land is going to be much greater in the year 2000 than it was in 1973 or 1974 or whenever it was acquired. I am sure the next generation of members of this assembly will recognize the wisdom of many of these things that we have difficulty seeing at the moment.

You asked about the criteria for the establishment of the management-by-results rating. I do not have sufficient detailed material in front of me to give you a specific breakdown. I would be pleased to provide you with more detail, but in general terms, the things which are regarded as the highest priority and result in a higher MBR rating have considerations of any risks that exist as a result of the present treatment of sewage in the community as it might relate to human health.

The other high priority consideration is damage to the physical environment. Those are the two things of highest priority. There are other factors that are taken into consideration. When either of those or both of those are present, it is bound to place the project much closer to the top of the scales. I hope you would recognize that some such system, however imperfect any rating system, is necessary when in any given fiscal year one is dealing with finite resources, and usually more requests than one could meet out of that year's allocation.

I can assure you that in terms of the approval of projects for this coming fiscal year that for the overwhelming majority of requests which have any significant MBR rating at all, it is going to be possible to meet them. I have forgotten the precise number at which the cutoff occurred but in the list that was being considered by the committee I know they even included several with a zero management by results rating. Some of those are not going to be proceeded with but

they were looking that far down the list. If there are any health or environmental implications, there is a very good chance the projects would be getting on this year's approved list.

The member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) raised the question of White River. It is a situation about which I have some degree of familiarity. There are two letters that are en route to that community. One indicates I have authorized an expenditure of \$20,000 to deal with emergency repairs to the system and outlines the need for the community to proceed with the acquisition of a right of way to the works. I believe that has to be arranged with the railway.

I have proposed as well that we will work with them particularly with a view to seeing if there is some way by which the proposal might be somewhat scaled down. I think that should be possible. I have heard some people refer to it as a "Cadillac proposal." Maybe we can get it down to a Buick or an Oldsmobile or something like that. I hope then we will be able to proceed with it. I recognize they have had a terrible time there this past winter with problems related to freezing. That is something on which we will work with them to try to address.

As far as the meeting on April 13 is concerned, we have received a petition. I hope that following the communication with the community such a meeting would not be necessary. The communication is on its way at the present time.

Mr. Wildman: I appreciate the comments of the minister. I would be happy to send him a copy of the petition I have. I am happy to hear confirmation of the \$20,000 for emergency repairs. I understand the cost per household is something like \$30,000 which is pretty high. If it is possible to come to some scaled-down proposal that will serve the needs of the community I think that would be worthwhile.

I wonder if the minister could respond to the specific question I did raise—which I think was in order—in regard to the transfer of the asset, which is what we are discussing. Is it a fair painting of the picture for the municipality to believe the ministry does not have a commitment to upgrading and that is the reason for their reluctance to take over the system? Is that an unfair interpretation of the ministry's position? That seems to be their interpretation.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that is an accurate interpretation. I have not been involved personally in the negotiations that have been going on there. Once a system is in place the operating costs—and to the extent

that is possible, any local portion of costs for capital improvements—would normally be borne as part of the rate charged to the users. If the member is asking if we are prepared in all cases to go in and pay 100 per cent of the cost of upgrading the system, then the answer would be no. To the question, "Are we prepared to participate by providing the provincial share?" the answer is yes. That is what we are proposing to do in a number of cases in the province.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what the minister said about there probably being no component of this \$30 million with respect to the Durham site—I guess its official name is Port Darlington—but I do wonder if he can tell us which municipalities are participating in this transfer.

5:30 p.m.

The minister mentioned that every significant, rated project in the province will be funded under his criteria. Does that mean that anyone who applied last year has been waiting on a rated list and is moving up for consideration, or are we talking about fresh applications? If he could tell us that and what municipalities are participating, we could have a good discussion.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Perhaps I could address the latter question first. I do not want to build up any false expectations; perhaps I ought to have been a little more specific in what I was saying.

I do not have all that information in front of me but my recollection, and it is just a recollection, is that projects which received a management-by-results rating in the high fifties or low sixties this year, are making it on to the list. Some, perhaps, were requests from a previous year and if their ratings were very low, they may not have made it on this year. As the member will understand, the highest priority goes to those which demonstrate that there is a definite or potential health or environmental problem.

The member asked which communities are likely to be affected by this. In total, there are in the process of transfer—that is, where the municipalities have indicated an interest and a willingness to take over the operation and also the ownership of the services—more than we have in front of us today. What we are doing in this fiscal year is writing off \$30 million of the provincial cost, which had originally been amortized over a 40-year period. With a transfer of the plants, we are writing that down, probably

at a rate of about \$30 million on an annual basis for the next few years.

Perhaps the member would like a list of those that have been selected for this year. This is not an exhaustive list of all that are being transferred or of those where a request has been made for transfer, but I can cite two projects in Cobden, two in Kenora, one in the district municipality of Muskoka, one in Niagara-on-the-Lake and three in the regional municipality of Sudbury. It happens that in those particular ones the provincial portion of the asset to be written off as part of the 40-year amortization, totals \$30 million. I can give a breakdown of the dollar figures. It is probably not of any great significance but the member is welcome to it.

Vote 2103 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes consideration of the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of the Environment.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

On vote 2902, adult and children's services program; item 4, income maintenance:

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Chairman, very briefly, the particular income maintenance matters are vote 2902, item 4, and basically revolve around the fact that the original estimates did not provide for caseload growth both in family benefits and in municipal allowances or general welfare assistance. In the drug benefit plan, as you know, we are obligated to pay the actual amount and the estimate was slightly lower.

In vote 2902, item 5, adult social services, the salary and wages and employee benefits are almost self-explanatory. In regard to the transfer payments for senior citizens, there is a \$2 million item for capital, which is part of the government's commitment over the five years for homes for the aged. The operating amount comes from the fact that by statute, we are required to pay 70 per cent of deficits in the 89 municipal homes for the aged. Then there is an additional amount of \$651,500 under vote 2902-5, which is an increase for the municipal purchase of counselling services, primarily in Metro and particularly in the southwest region, including the city of Windsor.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Chairman, before I start my remarks on these supplementary estimates, may I just take a minute or two to thank my leader for having chosen me for this new role of critic for Community and Social Services. I intend to

be as constructive as possible in my new role. The member for Oakwood (Mr. Grande) is asking how many times I am going to do it. I have this occasion now in front of the minister here, Mr. Chairman, and I am sure you will agree it is within the purview of a discussion of the supplementary estimates.

There are a few points I would like to raise concerning what I believe to be the general thrust of this particular program, and I do not know whether I will be sticking to the vote exactly. If I do not, I am sure Mr. Chairman will bring me right back to order.

Mr. Chairman: I will attempt to do so.

Mr. Boudria: With great reason, of course.

I want to address a few of the issues that have been coming up of late. One of them, of course, has to do with the total of general welfare assistance under vote 2902-4. It was obvious in a report in the newspapers yesterday that in 1975 the general welfare assistance rate was at approximately 80 per cent of the poverty line of this province. Right now, with the gradual decline, we have people who are living at a mere 67 per cent of the poverty line of this province. This has created a situation that is most difficult for the needy in Ontario.

In my own constituency, I have cases where constituents really have hardly anything to eat in the home because of the amount they are getting in welfare benefits. It is a very difficult situation.

We have very high unemployment in my constituency and, of course, with the present economic conditions, elsewhere in Ontario as well. Having said that, the welfare rolls are increasing. The fact that the welfare rolls are increasing has nothing to do with this ministry in particular; it has to do with this government perhaps, but not specifically with this ministry. Nevertheless, this ministry does fund through the municipalities some 30 per cent of the cost of welfare, together with the federal government, which contributes the other 50 per cent, making an 80 per cent total contribution, which is matched by 20 per cent from the municipalities.

Another side effect is that the municipalities are having a hard time making ends meet because the welfare rolls are increasing but the municipality's assessment is not increasing, so they have to increase the mill rate in order to fund that particular type of expenditure. That places a great strain on the municipalities at this moment and I wonder if the minister intends to increase the allocations to welfare recipients to

bring them to a more realistic figure as a percentage of the provincial income?

5:40 p.m.

The minister is probably thinking about the fact that when the calculations were done for the whole country, as per the Toronto Star article of yesterday, we have to take into consideration that although the figures are higher in western provinces, the rents there are higher. Also, we have to look at other facts, such as higher welfare benefits for the people in Nova Scotia than people in Ontario are getting. Perhaps the minister could briefly address that issue and tell us if the government intends to make some adjustment in that respect.

The other thing that relates to this vote has lately come to my attention from a group that has written to me, the Sole Support Parents Coalition, which is becoming increasingly concerned with the rumours that the minister wants to change the family benefits to classify women with dependents as able-bodied recipients and, therefore, add them to the welfare roll as opposed to the family benefit roll. The Sole Support Parents Coalition has written this letter, and they are apparently concerned that it is rumoured you want to do this. I am sure they have sent the minister a copy of the same documentation they are sending us. It is perhaps just a rumour, so he could inform us or deny this rumour if that is the case.

If the minister does intend in the future to change the legislation to have such a policy, I think one of the things he will have to do first is to increase day care facilities so women can have opportunity for employment. He has to do this before such legislation is implemented. That is the least we would have to do. We would have to remember as well that even if women are classified as able-bodied recipients, which means they should be out in the work force, we have to face the fact that even if they are there, on average they will only earn something like 58 per cent of what a man would be making in the work force.

Those inequities have to be adjusted before we could make such a change, if the minister envisions such a change. I will not go any further into that area before I hear the comments the minister may want to make.

The other thing I am becoming increasingly concerned about is an issue my leader raised in the House today. That is the issue of the Children's Learning Centre of North York, and although it is not very directly related to this vote it is somewhat. It comes under the vote of

adult and children's services program but not under the specific item. Nevertheless, it is under the same vote. I have here some 60 letters that were sent to me by parents of that area, all expressing disappointment that this facility will be closing and all hoping that the minister will change his mind and convince the government to put in the funding that will keep it open.

I have here a letter that was sent to me by one of the parents and, with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would read it into the record.

Mr. Chairman: I think we have been very indulgent in past experiences. I remember you reading a long story into the record—I have forgotten whether it was a throne speech—but under the circumstances, specifically in regard to supplementary estimates, no.

Mr. Boudria: Okay, Mr. Chairman. Nevertheless, I did get the point across to the minister that this particular facility is needed, as did my leader earlier today, and he may want to comment on that.

The other thing I want to comment on very briefly also concerns welfare recipients. I will go back to that issue. We have a phenomenon in rural areas of this province that is perhaps unique. Welfare recipients, especially the single women or women who have lost their spouses in the last few years and are from about 40 to 60 years old, are in many cases in a rural area where there is no employment. They have been put into a position where you would almost have to describe them as socially paralysed.

They have never been to a bank to make a deposit; they have never paid a phone bill. Then all of a sudden they find themselves on their own and having to do tasks they have never done before. They are just unable to cope with the situation they are faced with.

It is a very tragic thing. They come to my constituency office even to get such a thing as a letter from the provincial government read to them. In many cases the letter is written to them in a language they do not understand. But even in the cases where the letter is written to them in French there are a large number of people who are functionally illiterate, especially amongst women of that age in my constituency. It is a very serious problem.

To people in an urban area it may not be one. Urban people normally do not even realize this exists. To tell you the truth, Mr. Chairman, I did not even know the problem was that significant in my constituency until day after day I would see women of that age group come into my riding office in the same situation. They are

generally widows or their husbands have left them and they are just unable to cope with any kind of situation. At best, they have no money, and at worst, they have a bunch of debts that were left behind by their partners or their spouses, in death or upon their departures. It is a very difficult situation.

I just want to know whether the ministry has been addressing some of those problems and if not, if it intends to do so in the future.

Hon. Mr. Drea: First of all, Mr. Chairman, on the question of the proposed transfer of the entire able-bodied roll to the municipal delivery service, that is not a rumour. I announced it in a speech, I believe in June of 1981. The plans are already well under way and the municipalities asked for it.

That flows into your question about the widows under 60. I would have thought you would have given me and perhaps Mme Bégin some credit because we have effectively put the widow or the single woman aged 60 to 65 into the highest possible category. I realize, as you say, it is not generally applicable in the urban areas but I know it is in the rural areas.

That is the reason we want to get the municipal delivery service handling that type of case because the province is very remote. The province sends the letter, whether or not it is in a language they understand. I realize the significance of the problem you are talking about. I think again that is a reason the municipality or the county or whatever, because it does have a delivery service, will be able to look at that problem and it will not just be a cheque at the end of the month.

As to the relative ranking of Ontario in terms of the social assistance it provides, the first time the Star did it—which was a week before the one you talked about—they had us in ninth place. In the course of a week we moved up to seventh place.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Where are you going to be the next time, Frank?

Hon. Mr. Drea: It depends on who writes the report, to be perfectly honest. If you write it we will be the 11th and if I write it we will probably be third.

Mr. Breaugh: You can't talk to the future mayor of Toronto like that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: When he is the mayor of Toronto, I will call him His Worship.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Drea: He can't run in Scarborough. It would destroy the party.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Besides, I don't live there.
5:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Chairman, the reason for the discrepancy is the fact that it is very difficult to measure. Part of that was referred to by the honourable member when he said that rents were higher in certain places. Rents and hydro are much higher in Nova Scotia, too.

I think that some things have to be brought into line. Number one, in Ontario we have traditionally devoted ourselves in recent years not to cash payments to people on general welfare assistance but to sophisticated types of programs. The reason we can do this here is that we have the second lowest utilization of social assistance in the entire country, just a little bit below that of Saskatchewan. The reason for that is very fundamental: We have the second lowest number of families under the poverty line, second only to British Columbia.

Those two factors mean that we have been able to put the bulk of our moneys into programs, into services and so on, and we are greatly aided by the immensity of the subsidized housing provisions that are made. In this province there are 84,257 Ontario Housing Corporation subsidized rental units for both families and seniors and another 10,400 rent supplements.

I can give you the figures. The average family subsidy per unit is \$240 per month; that is in addition to the nominal rent they pay. The senior citizens' subsidy is \$187 a month. So I think you have to look at all the factors, and particularly the fact that in this province general welfare assistance is a very temporary thing, it is not a way of life. If you are going to be a long-term social assistance recipient you go on the provincial rolls.

In the past year we have also emphasized, and I made quite a point of it in my priorities when I was made minister, that the priorities were the elderly and the disabled, particularly the retarded. If you look at that Star article it grudgingly says that we are virtually number one when it comes to the elderly. As a matter of fact, we are number one.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Are you sure?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes. Alberta gives up to a certain amount; our Treasury gives it flat on top. That one we are sure of.

With regard to the question of the disabled, you will recall that last year there were two rates for the disabled and the permanently unem-

ployable. You got lots of mail about it, if you will remember. That has all been changed. We have eliminated that; we have brought them all up to the top. In some cases that represents a very substantial increase.

The question of why it had not been done for 10 years, as the Legislature properly demanded, or 15 years or however long it was, always seemed to bog down in a question of money. I made it the priority; it is done. Again, we granted substantial family benefits: seven per cent in January 1981, an interim measure; eight per cent in October 1981. We did not give a direct increase in the general welfare assistance field because we wanted to go at a priority item, which I thought was the amounts that people were paying for shelter. Then we did bring in very substantial shelter supplements.

When you look at our budget and you look at general welfare and/or any kind of direct social assistance, just to give you some comparisons, last year, in this province, we spent more than \$500 million on items that were 100 per cent Ontario dollars; no federal sharing, 100 cents on the dollar. That is more than the entire social assistance budget, for instance, of British Columbia. It is more than the direct social assistance budget of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan combined, and that is not even shared. Indeed, we will spend more money on children's mental health services than Saskatchewan does in direct social assistance even though Saskatchewan ranks up there with Alberta in that great Star chart.

We will spend more in services to develop the mentally handicapped; and this does not include their benefit under the Family Benefits Act, this is in straight service. We will spend more than BC does on all its social assistance—you can get that chart but the Globe and Mail's chart actually is better—more than Alberta and Saskatchewan combined again on direct social assistance.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Three million as compared with eight million people.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, but you have missed something. In this province, the number of employables as a percentage of the total caseload is far different than the rest of Canada. If you read those charts, in this province it is only 20 per cent; in British Columbia it is 44 per cent; in Quebec, it is 46 per cent; Alberta is 17.5 per cent; New Brunswick is 40.6 per cent. The all Canada average is 33 per cent.

Mr. Martel: What is Saskatchewan?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I can give you Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan is 15.8 per cent.

Mr. Martel: That is less than us, is it?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, and with much less population. A province that is still exporting population.

When you put some of these things into perspective there is a far different picture of the welfare allowances and of the entire social assistance budget in this province. I hope that clears up the matter for the member.

He has also asked me, what are we doing about increases? Since I have been the minister we have brought in two increases. We have entered universality; I made that very plain last year. We are looking at needs. We are constantly reviewing. We are certainly looking at the GWA situation at this time because, as I pointed out to you, the caseloads are rising due to unemployment. We are looking at that quite closely. If you are going to ask me when, I do not know when, but we are constantly reviewing that matter as well as other matters.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Chairman, could I adjourn the debate?

Mr. Chairman: I do not think we adjourn. It is not quite six of the clock. Do you have any other questions?

Mr. Boudria: I will continue then. I have a couple more questions I wanted to ask.

Mr. Martel: You will never get the answers though. Frank can't even wind up in that time.

Mr. Chairman: The member for Prescott-Russell, is it a short statement? Well, the House leader has a statement.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to indicate that, by agreement, tonight we are going to move on to Northern Affairs, Natural Resources and then Treasury and Economics, then come back to Community and Social Services, followed by Transportation and Communications on Thursday.

Mr. Chairman: With that in mind, the member for Prescott-Russell probably will not want to get into this in the two minutes left. He will have the opportunity on Thursday.

Mr. Boudria: I will continue on Thursday then.

The House recessed at 5:59 p.m.

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Tuesday, March 30, 1982

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, March 30, 1982

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS

On vote 702, northern economic development program; item 2, transportation development:

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, in opening this discussion of the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of Northern Affairs we are asking for the approval of the Legislature for \$1.3 million for the construction of an all-weather road into the Detour Lake mine property. This is additional funding on top of the \$6.7 million that was approved last year.

The road in question is 154.8 kilometres in length. It is north of Cochrane, and is about 30 miles inside the Ontario-Quebec border.

The Detour Lake mine, as many members are aware, is going to be one of the largest gold mines in Canada. It will employ in excess of 500 people, and the production is to be about 2,000 tons per day at commencement.

We are told the ore body is of some significant size, and as gold prices increase the production could increase to as much as 8,000 tons per day. So the investment is a wise one. It is one that will add significant economic benefits to that part of northeastern Ontario.

The construction that went on this past year was carried on with expertise and finesse. In fact, it went so well, because of good weather conditions, that the construction schedule was accelerated. This is the reason we are coming back to the Legislature for approval for a further \$1.3 million in the construction of that all-weather road.

I would like the support of the members on all sides of the House to finish it.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit a few observations in response to the minister's comments. The first one should go without saying. He was not here for my response to the throne speech, at which time I indicated that I was relatively new to this role but that I was looking forward to it because I have a very strong feeling for the needs and concerns of the people in northern Ontario.

On one of my many visits to northern Ontario in the course of this past year I was reminded

rather succinctly on a handful of occasions that northern Ontario is different from southern Ontario and within itself; that is, the northwestern part of the province has needs and concerns very different from those of the north-central part of the province, and both of them have needs and concerns different from those of the northeastern part of the province.

As I listened to those observations and as I considered my role as critic for Northern Affairs, I determined that one of the best things I could do was to read a little bit about the new ministry—and it is new—and, of course, about the new minister and some of the rationale for both of them being there.

I suppose if I had to summarize my impressions I would have to say something like what was said in the words of that old song—I am sure the pages will not recall this, but the oldtimers in the gallery and in the House will—"I know a little bit about a lot of things, but I don't know enough about you."

That perhaps can be said for myself about the north, and perhaps it can be said by the government about the north, because it is very evident as one reads the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Affairs over these last five or six years that many of the same issues are raised time and time again. But we do not see any particular solution coming to those concerns that have been raised.

When one does not see conclusions or blueprints or what have you for these concerns, one has to think out loud that possibly the government does not really have a handle on the affairs of the north. I do not say that in a totally critical sense, although by the very nature of it being said it has to be critical, but not totally critical, because if any one of us in this House or in this chamber suggested to himself or to this House that he knew all the answers to the problems of Ontario, and particularly of northern Ontario, he would really be stretching his credibility.

But when I take a further look at this specific issue of the road to Detour Lake and this whole mining development, I have to submit that we have evidence of a variety of shortcomings on the government's part. I do not want to drag this

out because, in fairness, when one looks at this amount of money as it relates to the overall budget concerns of this province of ours, it is really a relatively small amount of money. There is no question about that.

On the other hand, I do not want to let it just pass by because, whether the amount be large or small, the issue of the environmental assessment process as it applies to this project has to be a concern to all of us. If there was any doubt in anyone's mind, I am sure even the former Speaker, the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), who knows so much about the north, would have been surprised to see some of the comments that came in this report which we received very recently, *The Road to Detour Lake—An Example of the Environmental Assessment Process in Ontario*, from the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment.

There are some revelations in that presentation which I believe reflect poorly on the government and how it has accommodated this particular need through ignoring its own laws as they apply to the environmental assessment process. I cannot rationalize within my own thought process how it can do this.

8:10 p.m.

I have to admit to being concerned about what I say at this point, because all of us walk a very fine line when we express concerns for the environment and yet sing out, loud and clear, on the need for jobs and employment opportunities in every part of this province. If one were to pursue concern for the environment to the point where one would allow no development, the prospect would be overwhelming. I submit that none of us would be able to live with a process that precluded any opportunity for jobs.

However, we cannot watch development take place in this province without concern for the environment. Nor can we ignore the people in this province who are counting on the environment for their way of life, namely, the native people who rely on the tourism industry for their livelihood and who would be much affected by any deterioration of the environment.

We must make a fine distinction when we look at this or any similar project wherein one has concern for the environment on the one hand and concern for jobs on the other hand.

I have read through this report, but I am not as skilled in speed reading as I know you to be from other committee experience I have had with you, Mr. Chairman. However, as I dug my way through this report, I formed a few ques-

tions which I think may be legitimately raised in these supplementary estimates.

I must ask, first, considering the moneys the province is spending in this area, whether the ministry can present to us any guarantee that this joint venture, which is close to the Quebec border, will as it progresses obtain its power requirements through or from Ontario Hydro rather than from Hydro-Québec.

My second question is, what are the spinoff benefits for employment in Ontario? Does the ministry have a handle on this? After all, the government pushed this project through. We only have to look back to June 24, 1981, to its abandonment of the environmental assessment process because of the urgency of the project. If we accept that as a legitimate excuse for abandoning the process, can the minister indicate how many potential jobs we are looking at in this project?

My final question goes back to the environmental process and the extent of this development. The public expressed grave concern about being ignored in the development of the Detour Lake proposal. Although they bought the argument that there was urgency, that if the government did not move the project would not go forward, I wonder whether the government has made any attempt to reconcile those concerns or to go back to those people after the fact and say: "All right, we had to ignore the process, but we still are concerned about you and where you are in this part of our northern territory and this part of northern Ontario. We are still concerned about you and what you are concerned about, and we still want to talk to you."

Can the minister give us any assurance that, in spite of steamrolling over this environmental assessment requirement, the government has in any way, shape or form gone back to the concerned public to try to accommodate their concerns?

I may have one or two other questions as the minister replies and as the member for Lake Nipigon gets into this limited debate, but I will leave those questions at this point.

The Deputy Chairman: Thank you. Does the minister want to respond or to await the further questions from the honourable member?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, if I may respond, it may shorten the debate considerably, because I know there may be some repetition in some of the questions the member for Lake Nipigon will ask.

Mr. Stokes: If you answer well, you may eliminate some of my questions.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That's what I hope to do.

I want to begin by officially welcoming the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne) as my official critic. I was a little taken aback when the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) went to Thunder Bay and made that announcement. As we all know, the official opposition has only one member in northern Ontario. I had hoped he would continue to be my critic. His criticism and knowledge of northern Ontario were very valuable, very worthwhile and welcome on this side of the House, because he has a real depth of knowledge of what the north is all about.

During the course of the next few minutes and during the course of the next year I know that my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon and I, since I hail from the riding of Kenora, will spend some considerable time informing and possibly educating the member for London North in what the north is really all about. I welcome the challenge; I know you do. I appreciate your sincerity and your desire to become better informed, to have a much broader knowledge of what this province is all about and certainly what northern Ontario contributes to the economic wellbeing of this province.

I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that in the course of the next year we will do just that, and I hope that what the member gains from the debates and the examination of not only these supplementary estimates but also the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Affairs he will take back to his caucus to impress upon them the urgency, the need and the concern that we as legislators should have and must have for the future of northern Ontario.

You have already touched on some of these items. Certainly the environment is one item that this side of the House is very concerned about. As we go into the development of northern Ontario and the development of our resources, we are not unmindful of the need to have complete recognition of the effect that resource development has on our resources, that there is an economic benefit that will flow from the development of those resources and the jobs that are created.

You asked how many jobs would be created with the development of this massive gold mining undertaking. When it goes into production about a year from now, in 1983, there will be 500 jobs in place; and if it goes to the full

expansion of 8,000 tons a day that we expect, we can see 2,000 jobs being created in that area.

The Premier (Mr. Davis) himself, along with the former Provincial Secretary for Resources Development and I, flew to Detour Lake to look at the terrain, the sensitivity of that area and the need for that development.

Mr. Nixon: How did the Challenger operate? Did you land the jet up there?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, we didn't use a jet. We used the helicopter of the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Henderson) and landed right on site.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The honourable minister will respond now to the points raised by the member for London North.

8:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It was a very interesting trip. The Premier was directly involved, and he has shown a very personal interest in this development since day one.

The member for London North made some reference to the setting aside of the environmental examination in that area, and I want to make it very clear that this was not the case. This, categorically, is not the case. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications, along with the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Northern Affairs and the Ministry of the Environment were involved, were in tune, in step every inch of the way in the development and planning of this access road into Detour Lake. In fact, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications has an environmental study document in excess of 12 inches thick on the alignment for that road.

I point out to the member that there is no population affected; there is no native reservation affected. In fact, the natives in that area are anxious for the road to be developed so they can reap the benefit of some permanent employment possibilities; so they too were involved.

We were very actively involved in the alignment process with the tourist operators in the area. The member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) has just brought to my attention that on two or three occasions in our discussions with the tourist operators there was a change of alignment so that the effects would not be as severe as originally planned. We were directly involved with the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters' Association, because it wanted an input into the actual alignment of that particular road.

So I say there was concern for the environ-

ment in the development of this access, which will bring some needed employment into the northeastern part of this province.

I point out, in answer to the member for London North, that a hydro line is currently being constructed by the mine. It is being constructed from a point north of Fraserdale and it will use Ontario Hydro power. That was one of the stipulations we made in our discussions with the company.

Mr. Nixon: Does the Brunelle Highway go near there?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Not yet, no. We might have to name this the Brunelle Highway when it is completed, if the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché) will allow us.

I also point out that as a result of our negotiations with the company they will develop 35 kilometres of the road at a cost to them of \$6.4 million. When the road is completed, our expenditure will be about \$35.9 million. It is a major undertaking, but I am very confident and sure the benefits that flow from this development will be ones that will be long—

Mr. Nixon: Was that \$35 million?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, \$35.9 million total.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Chairman, I would like to join with the Minister of Northern Affairs in welcoming the member for London North to northern affairs. I have had some very brief discussions with the member about his willingness to become much better informed about what northern Ontario is all about and the tremendous contribution we from the north—that is, north of the French River—as the drawers of water and the hewers of wood, make to the overall contribution of southern Ontario, the Golden Horseshoe, the megalopoli that are down here. Without the resources that flow from the north in such abundance, you would not enjoy the lifestyle you enjoy in southern Ontario at present.

Welcome to the northern club. I am sure it will be quite a revelation to the member and many of his colleagues if we can persuade those two northerners over there, the Minister of Northern Affairs and the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope), to lay on a trip for all members of the Legislature so they can get up there and see at first hand what northern Ontario is all about.

Did I hear the minister correctly when he said the entire \$1.3 million that he is requesting of the assembly here tonight is dedicated exclusively to the Detour Lake project? Does he mean he is

not going to do anything in addition to what he has already announced for Highway 17, particularly Pays Plat Hill and Cavers Hill, Highway 17 east of Nipigon, passing lanes and widening of shoulders, paving of shoulders? Is he not going to do any of those things with this additional money?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Tomorrow we will.

Mr. Stokes: I would have even talked about the Armstrong road and Highway 584 from Geraldton up to Nakina had you broadened your horizons just a little bit.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Who is running all those roads anyway?

Mr. Ruston: We are having trouble getting roads fixed too, Jack, in southern Ontario. You're not the only one.

Mr. Stokes: All right. I will confine my remarks specifically to this item and the specific project for which this amount of money is dedicated.

In view of the assertion by the minister that when the project is completed, about \$36 million of taxpayers' money will have gone into the project for road construction, the first question I want to ask is whether that includes the development of hydro lines as well.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Stokes: It is strictly for the roads. That is even more than the road to Minaki, give or take a few million.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Is there something wrong with that? Are you against roads?

Mr. Stokes: The first and the most obvious question is, what kind of representations did the three companies involved—I think they are Dome Mines, Campbell Red Lake Mines and Amoco Canada Petroleum—make to your government and specifically to your ministry to convince you that the only way this project was going to proceed was if we dedicated \$36 million of taxpayers' money to get this show under way?

As the minister has said on numerous occasions, literally at every opportunity made available to him, this will be likely the largest gold mine operation ever any place in Canada, ultimately hoping to produce 8,000 tons a day. If that is even reasonably high grade—and given the price of gold and the way it has plummeted over the past two or three years, obviously it is not nearly as attractive as it might have been two or three years ago—I am wondering what kind of representations these three relatively large mining companies made to the Minister of

Northern Affairs and his colleagues to convince them we should dedicate \$36 million of taxpayers' money to get this project under way.

We have done it in the pulp and paper industry, we have done it with Chrysler with regard to the guarantee at least and we have been involved in the Massey-Ferguson deal. In a number of ways we have come to the aid of a lot of large companies. I might say that there is some justification for coming to the aid, at least on a short-term or interim basis, of large companies for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the state of the world economy.

I am wondering, when they were coming into a brand-new venture like this and they were so very anxious to get this project under way, why you could not even wait for the normal processes of the kind of adequate consultation that obviously must take place if you are going to take care of all the needs, all the aspirations and all the concerns of people who for very legitimate reasons have some concern about the nature of economic development.

I want to carry on a little bit further with something that was developed by the member for London North when he referred to the environmental assessment process with regard to this project. You will recall that during your estimates last fall, I raised specifically with you the question of this environmental assessment process in Ontario where the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment dedicated a substantial amount of money for just such an assessment on this project. I asked you at that time because there was funding in the original estimates of this ministry last fall dedicated to this project.

8:30 p.m.

I said: "What are you going to say? How are you going to react to this report when it becomes available?" and it was just released within the last week. I said, "What are you going to say if they are critical of the process and the way in which you approached this project?" You said, "If whatever they say, whatever they recommend or whatever conclusions they may come to are at variance with what we have already done we will simply have to tell them they were wrong."

I do not claim to be prescient or anything, but I just want to quote one paragraph from the conclusions contained in this very classy document. The document was researched, developed and printed as part of the \$6 million plus of taxpayers' money that had been dedicated to this whole process of the Royal Commission on

the Northern Environment, presided over for the first year by Chief Justice Hartt and for the last two to three years by our friend and fellow northerner, Mr. Fahlgren.

He is always six months behind everything that is going on with regard to your ministry or that of your colleague behind you with his hand up to his brow. This is true with regard to strategic land-use planning or district land-use planning—all of the things you two rascals over there are doing. Everything that he does is just about six months too late.

But I want to quote from something that was made available. This was in the conclusion arrived at by this study, *The Road to Detour Lake, An Example of the Environmental Assessment Process in Ontario*, commissioned by the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment:

"The circumstances and events of the Detour Lake case highlight some of the ways things can go wrong in the interaction between economic development and environmental management interests. What happened here can serve to isolate some of the factors in this interaction and stages in the process by which decisions about future benefits to the public are made.

"The ambiguous status of the road project, the fragmentation of planning efforts for the whole development, the roles adopted by various players and, of course, the inconsistencies in timing at certain stages—all of these factors contributed to the confusing picture that evolved of a process in which government was either unwilling or unable to follow its own rules.

"This picture does not much affect the general consensus that the project is probably a good thing, that the government's rationale is acceptable, that the alignment is probably the best one, considering all factors. But it does have implications for future developments in Ontario's north and the way the environmental assessment process functions has further implications for development and decision making in the province as a whole."

The amount of money you have dedicated to this whole project is roughly \$36 million for the road alone and I am sure there will be other things that these fairly major mining and exploration companies will ask you to assist them on. Obviously, through Ontario Hydro, the users of hydro are going to be contributing a fair amount of money. It is going to take a fair bit of time just to amortize the cost of that road at reasonable industrial rates for power, even in Ontario.

But when we get the Royal Commission on

the Northern Environment taking the time and the effort and using precious resources to produce a document like this, which was released in late March 1982, only to find out that everything they address themselves to in this report has already been decided months and months before the release of the document, it just shows you how irrelevant most of the things are that the commission has done in the past and is doing at the present time.

I see three northerners there. I am happy to see them taking such an interest.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Are you against the mine or not? Are you against the road?

Mr. Stokes: No, I think it's a great thing, but there is a right way to do things and then there is your way.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Make up your mind.

Mr. Stokes: Why can't you do it properly?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We did.

Mr. Stokes: You didn't do it properly.

Mr. Wildman: Not according to your own commission.

Mr. Stokes: You ask Ed Fahlgren if he thinks you did it properly. He knows a lot more about mining than you, I or anyone else in this House.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: On a point of privilege, Mr. Chairman: I think the honourable member is leading the House astray, really. To say that we disregard our own rules is not totally correct. He is misleading the House.

Mr. Stokes: I didn't relinquish the floor, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Robinson): The minister rose on a point of privilege.

Mr. Stokes: That was neither a point of order nor a point of privilege. He may have a point of view, which he can express at the proper time.

The Acting Chairman: Yes. I was simply trying to determine whether he had a legitimate point of either privilege or order that should have been addressed.

Mr. Stokes: The only point he was making was that I was leading you astray, and that I would never do.

The Acting Chairman: It seems that he did not, and I would recognize you again and ask you to continue your remarks.

Mr. Stokes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been an advocate of the orderly development of resources in northern Ontario without impairing the quality of life. I have always maintained that, and for whatever length of time I have the

opportunity to articulate that point of view I will continue to do so. All I am saying is that there are good ways to do things and there are bad ways to do things. I do not think this was a good way. The way in which you are trying to create jobs in Minaki is not a good way; it is your way, but I do not necessarily have to agree with the process. I might agree with your overall aims and objectives—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Your former leader didn't agree with Minaki Lodge, either. He is not here any more.

Mr. Stokes: That's right. He left of his own volition. You made him sick and he left. I am going to stay and fight.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: When he went to Minaki that was the end of Stephen Lewis.

Mr. Stokes: I can recall very vividly, it was on October 18, 1967, the day after I was first elected to the Legislative Assembly, somebody asked the member for Kenora what he thought of the people of Lake Nipigon—at that time it was the riding of Thunder Bay.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What did he say?

Mr. Stokes: He said: "What happened that a New Democrat got elected in the riding of Thunder Bay? Where did you people go wrong?" He said: "Well, obviously they made a mistake. They will live to regret it. It's just a temporary aberration, and that will be corrected the next time around."

Mr. Ruston: Now Jack's hair is grey.

Mr. Stokes: Stephen Lewis may be gone, but I am still here and don't you forget it.

8:40 p.m.

Mr. Wildman: What percentage did you get last time, Jack?

Mr. Stokes: I didn't make quite 70 per cent. I don't want anybody to misunderstand me. I am for the orderly development of our resources in northern Ontario whether they be mineral, whether they be forestry based, whether it be on all the opportunities the minister and I know so well are there, if we could just motivate private entrepreneurs, even big capital. But any time anybody comes to the north they say, "We will exploit the north providing we can get taxpayers' dollars."

I am the true enterpriser. You are Socialists. Any time anybody comes to talk to the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) or the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope), in concert with the provincial Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller), you people pretty near rupture yourselves

trying to throw money at these big corporations. It is called socialism for the rich, and free enterprise for the poor. So any time you accuse me of being a Socialist, just clean out your own house.

Here is \$1.3 million dedicated to assisting these poor, impoverished companies like Dome, like Campbell Red Lake, like Amoco in the United States. They are impoverished and just hanging on by a thread, hanging on by the skin of their teeth, and the only way we can get the kind of development we think we so richly deserve in the north is by giving handouts to—I won't call them corporate welfare bums—but they need a little push to get them to exploit the tremendous storehouse of wealth we have in northern Ontario.

I suppose, for whatever length of time those fellows are over there, if that is what it takes, that is the way it is going to be. They have the numbers. They have the realities of March 19. Whether I vote for this \$1.3 million or not, they are going to get it. I happen to think there is a better way of using taxpayers' dollars for the development of the natural wealth we have in northern Ontario without throwing it out to these multinational and large corporations. I think they would have gone there in spite of it.

I want to make one final comment. Why were you so anxious to go forward with this whole process in advance of this study? Obviously, it was because those three companies I mentioned earlier were so anxious to get going in there that they said: "We can't wait to wade through the bureaucracy and the red tape. We want to go now." So you hurried up the process, you withdrew it from the Environmental Protection Act, from the whole environmental assessment process and said, "Let's get on with it." They could not get in there fast enough.

I think you could have attracted them in there without spending \$36 million of taxpayers' money. They would have been in there anyway, because wherever there is a dollar to be made those entrepreneurs will be there. I do not think the expenditure of the \$36 million, or the \$1.3 million you are asking for tonight, would have made any difference. If there is a dollar to be made they would have been there, and I think you could have used the \$36 million to a much greater purpose.

If my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) was here, he would say you could have built a food terminal in Timmins. I would not say that. But there are any number of ways in which this kind of money could have

been much better spent. However, you are going to do it, it is going to provide some jobs in the north, and that is the name of the game in this day and age, so we will be supporting this amount of money.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, I would like to respond to both opposition critics. First, I want to compliment the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne) both for his remarks and for his enthusiasm in his new role of critic for the Ministry of Northern Affairs. I remind him of what his former leader said—I think he went up to northern Ontario once; at least as far as North Bay, when he got lost in a snowstorm or something. He was going to do away with the Ministry of Northern Affairs, if you will recall because it was a "nothing" ministry, it was Santa Claus, as the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) said, and it was not responding to the needs of northern Ontario.

There is an enlightened attitude on that side now because the new leader of the Liberal Party went up to Thunder Bay and said: "The Ministry of Northern Affairs will stay, and if we"—God help Ontario—"ever get into power, we will build on that ministry. We will make it do more than it is doing today. They have built a base." That is quite a change. So I welcome you, sir, and I look forward to working closely with you in the interests of northern Ontario.

I also want to acknowledge the member for Lake Nipigon who, like myself, knows a little bit about northern Ontario and our efforts to get jobs and development up there. He commented on the expenditure that we are making—something like \$35 million or \$36 million. But he forgot, or was perhaps not aware, that the company which is involved will spend \$6.4 million on their share of the top half of that particular road and will spend in excess of \$200 million developing the mine.

The member does not take into account that after three years of operation that mine will deliver to the coffers of this province \$20 million a year in excess of that amount, and the road will be paid for in four or five years. If that is not a good investment in northern Ontario, tell me so. Go up to Cochrane and tell the people that the road to Detour Lake is not a good investment.

Two weeks before the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the former member for Cochrane North and I went into Detour Lake, the Quebec Minister for Natural Resources was there, because it is 30 miles from the Quebec border. He knew very well that this road should have gone to Quebec. I will say to you on that side of

the House that if we had sat here and done nothing for Detour Lake, if we had let that road go to the Quebec government, there would have been howls from that side of the House.

Mr. Stokes: The resources belong to Ontario. That is a red herring and the minister knows it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That is right, but the road would have gone to Quebec and the economic benefits would have gone to Quebec. The economic benefits will now flow to the coffers of this province.

I make no apologies for the expenditures that the taxpayers of this province are making for the development of that road, which I hope will open up further mining development. If the member for Lake Nipigon looks at the geology and formation of Rouyn and Noranda, Quebec, and then at Detour Lake, taking in that band right up to Favourable Lake, he will see that there is now greater potential for additional mines in that particular area in Ontario. There is no question but that the road is an investment in our future; and it is starting out on the right foot, with 500 jobs and possibly 2,000 down the road.

I stand here with pride and accept the support of the critics from the Liberal Party and from the third party in this expenditure. It gives me great satisfaction to know we are on the right track. We have been very sensitive to the environment, as I pointed out earlier. I said that the Ministry of Transportation and Communications had done its work. They have documents, more than a foot high, on the environmental impact of that road. They have had discussions with the tourist industry and with the local people. Nobody has actually been affected.

8:50 p.m.

Mr. Stokes: Tell that to Ed Fahlgren.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I will tell him.

I am pleased we have the support. In my opinion, it is not a handout to the major corporations. When one thinks of what they are spending and what the taxpayers are spending and the return we will get to the consolidated revenue fund, I am very grateful for the members' support.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Chairman, I would like to go back to one of the questions that I put to the minister which he inadvertently went over and did not respond to. That was the question about Ontario Hydro and if hydro would be acquired for this project from Ontario as opposed to Quebec.

In the initial response to me he acknowledged

my new role and I am very grateful for that. There was also reference made—I think indirectly by him and directly by the member for Lake Nipigon—that I and all members of this chamber would be welcome to go to the north. Our former leader, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), interjected that it was time for another northern tour. I gather this used to be the procedure or happening on occasion, that members would go north. I think that is something we should encourage and pursue.

There was also an implication that the north was something I knew very little about and had not visited, let alone inquired into. That is certainly not the case. I point out to the minister that within the last year I have had the pleasure and opportunity to visit seven different communities on one occasion and an additional five communities on two occasions, a total of 12 communities in the north, and that is north of the French River.

I also had the pleasure of visiting my daughter, who worked as a camp counsellor at a little spot called Oskiniko, which is just south of Moosonee. That is a place one has to get to by that wonderful Northlander. I did take the opportunity to go up and visit that camp and see the activities of the volunteer people who were spending their entire summer there working with the Oblate Fathers trying to provide a program for the native young people in the Moosonee area. Just by chance this past weekend two of those campers, those native Indian folk from the Moosonee area, were in London at a conference and dropped around to our house to visit my daughter Beth, who worked there as a volunteer for a matter of 10 weeks.

In passing, I had to observe the concern of the native folk in this report that the environmental process was overlooked. They were not happy with it. I think the minister indicated they were satisfied with it. I simply asked for clarification. On pages 112 and 113 of this report, under the heading of exemptions, there is a fairly clear statement, and I am quoting in part from the release made by the Grand Council Treaty 9, "The province of Ontario is in breach of its own legislation by virtue of the announcement of the granting of contracts for building of the access road prior to the 30-day public notice based on the assumption that there was no obvious opposition to this project."

That and other comments in these two pages and comments spread throughout the report would indicate to me that they were not happy.

Let me finish by again going back to these two questions, (a) on hydro from Ontario, and (b) on the attitude of native folk in northern Ontario on this project.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, again I appreciate the member for London North's sincerity and his concern for the northern Ontario environment and his commitment in the next few years to visit northern Ontario on a more regular basis.

Coming from London and going up to northern Ontario to visit, he will be labelled as an in-and-outer. We have a saying in northern Ontario that these people who come from southern Ontario come in for a day and go out the next day, and we call them in-and-outers, because they won't stay with us for a week or two or six months, and they don't know the attitudes.

I hope the member for London North will not only come to northern Ontario for one or two days, but come up and stay with us and learn our attitudes and our concerns and our desires. It does take a little time and, while the member for Lake Nipigon and I will try to enlighten him as much as we can, a real personal visit for a period of time longer than a day or two would be much more appreciated and very beneficial.

Getting back to the two questions, the Ontario Hydro line will be developed by the mine. The construction of the hydro line is being paid for by the company. It is no burden on Ontario Hydro. The line is coming from the province and will make a connection north of Fraserdale. That is in place and there is no burden on Ontario taxpayers.

The member also made reference to Treaty 9. I would point out that our discussions were with the individuals and with the bands in the area, and not with the overall Treaty 9, so the native people's acceptance and desire to obtain permanent employment because of the development of the mine is a very sincere one and a very real one. I have to admit there are not really that many.

Vote 702 agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: This completes consideration of the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

On vote 2502, land management program; item 1, conservation authorities and water management:

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Chairman, this represents transfer payments to conservation authorities. It involves additional funding allocations for the Neebing-McIntyre flood control project with the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority. It involves the Upper Thames land acquisition program with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. It involves some expenditures on the Port Hope project with the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority and, finally, the famous W. Darcy McKeough project involving the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

There were additional financial commitments required for the current fiscal year, some of which were offset by restraints in other activities and this is the balance required to transfer payments to these authorities to cover these projects for the current year.

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Chairman, I note that the amount of the supplementary expenditures for 1981-82 is \$1,878,200. The decrease in the budgetary expenditures for the conservation authorities and water management program is from \$47,503,700 in 1980-81 to \$41,018,000 in 1981-82. This is a decrease of some 14 per cent, or \$6,485,000. Even with this extra \$1,878,200, the budget will have been reduced by more than \$4.5 million. I wonder if the minister would comment on the reason for that reduction.

The extra money is also to be used to finance water and land management programs, recreational land management programs and other projects under the scope of the individual authorities.

9 p.m.

Some major concerns have been expressed over the role and mandate of the conservation authorities. The minister will be aware that in April 1979 a draft report was prepared by the conservation authorities branch of the ministry. I wonder whether the minister might bring us up to date on what has happened to that draft report of April 1979—it was the report of the king group—and tell us whether anything further has been done and whether he has incorporated any official mandate of the conservation authorities.

He will also be aware that at that time there was considerable input from various sources and particularly from the Municipal Liaison Committee, which represents the various municipal associations of Ontario. He will recall that there were some very excellent responses from the Association of Counties and Regions of

Ontario, the rural Ontario municipalities and Metropolitan Toronto in regard to that report. They had some very real concerns, and I wonder if the minister might address two or three of these areas.

One of the concerns was the membership on the conservation authorities. All three reports addressed the need for municipal representatives on the conservation authorities to assume a larger and more active role in the functioning of the authorities and the need for increased accountability to the member municipalities and the public.

They also were concerned about funding, and I wonder if the minister would comment on their participation in this.

Also, with regard to responsibilities, the three reports recommended that the prime functions of conservation authorities should be watershed management and flood and erosion control, and that no further responsibility should be designated to conservation authorities. This recommendation was supported by the Municipal Liaison Committee. I think it is important that the minister address himself to this and to what the mandate of the authorities might be, especially the follow-up to that draft report.

I think it is also important that the minister consider the role of the conservation authorities in view of the realignment of the ministries within the government in which we now have the long-overdue separation, recommended by the Liberal task force on tourism, of industry and tourism. This has now been combined as the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. This is going to be a new field, and I realize that the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Baetz) and the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Mr. McCaffrey) are still in the process of trying to determine exactly what responsibilities they will take.

In view of the fact that greater emphasis is being placed on our tourism industry and the needs of recreation in the province, how is this going to affect the work of conservation authorities, which seem to be getting quite involved in the recreational field? The last thing we need is duplication, but I do feel that the minister might bring us up to date on that working group and the mandate and role of the conservation authorities of Ontario.

The Deputy Chairman: Would the minister like to respond to that now, inasmuch as it might resolve most of the other questions that may be coming forward?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Chairman, the funding level has fluctuated. As the member has accurately pointed out, it relates both to projects coming on stream and to projects going off stream, their planning timetables, and it relates to our attempts to straighten priorities around as we think they should be with respect to conservation authority activities.

It is true that we have been looking at the role of conservation authorities and their mandates since well before 1979 and that we have been discussing this matter with various sources, including the Provincial-Municipal Liaison Committee.

We have been attempting to work with the conservation authorities to indicate our priority, once again being reinforced with them with respect to flood plain management, flood control projects and land acquisition projects in the flood plain.

We also recognize that they have developed a role with respect to the provision of recreational opportunities in their flood plain areas. This is normally done in consultation with the municipalities. Certainly in my own conservation authority area, there has always been a close working relationship with the municipal councils involved and the conservation authority. It can always be improved.

I am aware of some stresses in certain conservation authority areas. I am aware of certain stresses with respect to some authorities and their relationship to the municipalities. I think it is something we have been trying to address ourselves to.

The Deputy Chairman: Does any other honourable member wish to participate? The member for Algoma.

Mr. Wildman: I will yield to the member for Nickel Belt.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Chairman, when I saw the description of the supplementary estimates, it struck me that the minister was being his usual taciturn self in not revealing to us exactly what he had in mind in terms of these supplementary estimates.

One thing that has always bothered me about the conservation authorities is that the minister has been able to play off one conservation authority against another. I do not refer to this minister, because he is just learning how to do it; but his predecessors have done it. As a result, there is no sense out there that there is a priority for this kind of conservation versus another kind of conservation.

I think of the area I represent, for example, where there is serious flooding every time there is a major runoff from north of the major watershed. Ten years ago, the Ministry of Natural Resources commissioned a study called the Svanks report on major flooding of what is known as the Vermilion-Onaping watershed. There was very serious flooding, and a very good report was done by this engineer named Svanks.

When the report came out, it made certain recommendations, every one of which has been ignored since that time. The Ministry of Natural Resources says: "You know it is not up to us. It is up to the conservation authority to make that decision." But what the minister forgets to reveal is that any conservation authority has to get its money from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

It really is playing a game to say that the conservation authorities establish their own priorities and decide how they are going to spend their money. In fact, the conservation authorities have very little discretionary income that allows them to make those kinds of decisions. The problem is only corrected if the Ministry of Natural Resources says: "There is a particular problem in this area. We think it is important enough to award funds for it; we therefore give you those grants, and you can do a decent job on it."

What is so silly about the present policy is that when the flooding occurs, the Ontario government has to ante up the money anyway. The only trouble is that it does not look after all the misery that goes along with serious flooding in any given community. The ministry has this unstated and unwritten policy that it will wait until the misery occurs and then placate the people in the local area by giving the grants when absolutely necessary, but it will not take the preventive measures necessary to avoid the misery in the first place.

I can see it coming again this year. There is going to be a major runoff north of the watershed, and that is going to cause a major problem in June, particularly if there is a heavy rainfall that lasts for a day or so. I can see that coming now, and the minister will say: "Well, it wasn't our fault. We just grant the money to the conservation authorities and then they establish their own priorities."

The minister can go on saying that year after year, I suppose, and the misery will go on year after year, whenever there is a major flood. It is not as though there was no solution to the

problem. The solution is there, it has been recommended by a task force the ministry appointed itself, and yet they ignore the very recommendations that would solve the problem and prevent the need to appoint yet another study or another task force in the years to come. This minister has fallen into that same old pattern, saying: "Don't talk to us. Let the conservation authority decide what their priorities are."

9:10 p.m.

I hope that when the minister responds he will tell me just what his views are on the priorities of the various conservation authorities. I hope he will indicate to me whether he thinks the recommendations of the Svanks report—which I suspect he is aware of; if he is not, he should be—were realistic. They were not at all unreasonable, they were not expensive, and yet the ministry has totally ignored those recommendations for about 10 years now.

I urge the minister, if he is not aware of the recommendations in that report, to consult his officials. If that would not be breaking new ground for him, I would suggest that he consult those people in his ministry who have some expertise and take a long look at that problem.

I do not say that to offend the minister, but I do recall that during the estimates last fall, for the first time in history of Ontario, the estimates debates were heard with only the minister in the room representing the government; there were no civil servants. On occasion his deputy minister was there, but that was it. The infallible Pope had all the help he needed. I have never seen that happen before in Ontario, and it seems to me it was a strange precedent for a new minister to be setting.

Anyway, I will get back to the conservation authorities, because I notice the chairman is looking a little agitated. I urge the minister to give serious consideration to the problems of the conservation authorities and to think about it as a preventive measure which he should be giving more consideration to.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Chairman, for about the last year we have been trying to indicate a sense of priority in terms of the types of programs we would like to support through our funding priority rating system. They include land acquisition in flood plain areas; flood control measures, including diking and bank stabilization; and water management programs, including flood plain mapping.

On a number of occasions we have indicated

to the conservation authorities that, in terms of approvals of programs and allocation of funding, that is where the priority would lie. We said that directly to the chairmen when they were down in Toronto—I guess it was last May—and from time to time we have followed it up through written correspondence.

The member is quite right. It is not only the conservation authorities that have responsibility with respect to funding; it is also the Ministry of Natural Resources. We have a system of both province-wide and regional priority rating, which is done by the Ministry of Natural Resources field staff. Then we examine the ratings and try to allocate money on that basis, using the best advice that is given to us from the field and from the experts who work not only for the conservation authorities but also for the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Mr. Laughren: You listen to them.

Hon. Mr. Pope: I try to. We do have a fixed budget, which has been reduced somewhat over the years; the honourable member is quite right. We did apply an in-year constraint last year to administrative budgets; we do not think that had a terrible impact in terms of their ongoing operations. In fact, we do not see much change; so we thought that constraint was available to us. We intend to continue with funding at a high level for these programs. We hope the regional priority system is working.

I can review again the particular problem with respect to your conservation authority. I have seen priority ratings for the northern region, including that project and a couple of others. We have a problem in Thunder Bay that we are quite concerned about. That is one of the reasons the Lakehead Conservation Authority is one of the four included in this supplementary estimate tonight. Before you came in, I read out the four projects that would be specifically dealt with. We are hoping this additional funding will clear up some of the backlog—deficits and this kind of thing—which will leave us free to apply additional funds to some of these other important projects.

I have tried to look at the regional priority program and to give a priority to some of the northern Ontario flooding problems that I have sensed could be dealt with more expeditiously. We also have some concerns in the Port Hope area that have to be speeded up: a construction program with two bridges.

This is the nature of the projects we are trying to clear up. We know they are all urgent and important. We know when there is flooding of

homes that there is misery for the people who live in them. We are trying to assess the priorities and to get on with the program as quickly as we can.

We do not anticipate reductions on a regular basis from the budget base for the conservation authorities in the future. We expect to be carrying on with our regular funding base and going on to additional projects.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, I have expressed a view before about conservation authorities in general. I have always been quite proud of their accomplishments, since I think it was during the leadership of the late Honourable Mitchell F. Hepburn that the concept really was established. It is true that George Drew expanded it somewhat. As a member of the select committee on conservation authorities, I supported the recommendation that expanded the authorities into almost all parts of southern Ontario.

I also observed that the areas of the north that established conservation authorities did it more or less to get additional funds for what I normally would consider municipal projects, such as drainage in hard rock areas. But the more I see them operating as time goes by and the more I see the needs of the community change, the less I am convinced they should continue unchanged.

One of the problems, and I think it is directly associated with the \$2 million we are asked to vote, is a growing feeling among the taxpayers that somehow or other the conservation authorities operate in sort of an independent area. They get a good deal of their money and their authority from the minister, their membership partly from the municipalities and often their direction by the political appointment of the chairman.

I suppose the instance of the Metropolitan Toronto authority is a case in point. A good friend of all of us here, a former Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, was appointed chairman of the authority after he retired. I think the usual procedure is for the minister to name a person like Keith Reynolds, a well respected and competent person indeed, as a government appointee to the authority and then let it be known that you would like him to be elected chairman. The members of the authority usually know what they are doing in these matters. They spring to attention and raise their hands as the minister pulls the appropriate lever—if I am not mixing a metaphor unduly.

In an instance such as this, one would think that Dr. Reynolds with his administrative expe-

rience, having been a sort of blocking runner for Premier Robarts for a while before he was demoted to the Deputy Ministership of Natural Resources, would be able to handle a difficult situation like that. Yet just as some of the ministers previously have experienced, he was mugged in the corridors of conservation authority power. Somehow or other, the other members of the Metropolitan Toronto authority felt they were having his authority unfairly and needlessly imposed on them.

I really do not know too many members of the authority, but I do know Keith Reynolds. I am rather surprised that he got into such a difficult situation. I have not read too much about it recently, but undoubtedly it is the sort of thing that detracts at least from the efficiency, if not the spirit and good will, of an authority.

9:20 p.m.

As time goes on and the facilities of the ministry expand particularly into southern Ontario, I do feel an argument can be made that the need for this rather elaborate and expensive mosaic of conservation authorities is receding, particularly since the direct lines of responsibility are somewhat obscure.

I suppose even the members of the authority, when they are arguing with the minister, if that ever happens, indicate that their main responsibility is to their member municipalities. Naturally, when they are talking to their member municipalities they indicate that their authority comes by act of Legislature and that in most instances the office of the chairman is in a sense dictated by the minister's will.

I know that in the Grand Valley authority, which I believe is the largest authority in Ontario and which is certainly the one of longest standing with a very well established administrative process, a lovely administrative building and many expensive facilities as well as extremely well-trained and highly paid staff, has become, as we have noticed with this government as it has grown older and older, more entrenched, perhaps less sensitive to the needs of the community and more expensive in the service it renders.

My own feeling is that it is time that we, as a Legislature, had a careful review of the efficiency of the authorities, particularly since the minister maintains—

Mr. Stokes: How about another select committee?

Mr. Nixon: I personally would not even require that, if you really want to know the

truth, although I am expressing a personal opinion in these matters.

The minister, through his various offices, has a well-established series of facilities in our own area. We have parks that are national, provincial and municipal as well as some private ones, and I suppose the best ones of all are those that are operated by the conservation authority.

The duplication and expense is something that sometimes bothers me. When on occasion we go to the local conservation authority park, I feel that its administration is second to none. Its facilities are outstanding; so I have no criticism whatsoever that way. But I feel that perhaps in the future the responsibility of the ministry need not be restricted so much as it has been in the past to the northern part of the province. The ministry and its offices, in co-operation with the present establishment of conservation authorities, might very well move gradually to reduce the duplication.

The minister may very well have read the recommendations of the regional government review in Waterloo, which was chaired by another old stager around here, Bill Palmer, who had very good political connections at one time and became chairman of the municipal board. Then he went over his peak and moved down and out to some extent; but he was the review officer for the regional government in Waterloo. His recommendation was quite clear that it was time the government reviewed, and perhaps rationalized, the overlapping responsibilities between the minister and his conservation authorities.

I am somewhat reluctant to support the voting of an additional \$1,878,000 on the basis that, having raised this matter over the past two or three years, there is still no indication from the minister or his advisers of any move at all to review and rationalize the overlapping of authority which I feel has resulted in needless expense to some extent.

There will be another occasion for me to express certain other doubts I have about the authorities' move into the control of local planning.

The minister prides himself on running his ministry with the infallibility referred to by the previous speaker. I do not admire him for that, to tell you the truth, and he should think carefully about it.

I understand that most of his senior staff are going to be taking retirement in the next few months and years. That is a problem that faces him, and in many respects faces all of us, in that

we are going to lose some of the continuity that has been the strength of the ministry.

While in the past I have indicated my personal liking and respect for the minister, I do not want him to make any mistakes of a judgemental type, such as thinking that he can operate a ministry like his without getting all of the advice that is readily available to him and acting upon it.

I have expressed these concerns, which have grown in my own mind and get stronger year by year, and I shall continue to do so on behalf of my constituents who have expressed them to me. Whether or not he shares these concerns, I look forward to hearing the minister indicate that at least there is going to be a review of this overall policy so that some of the problems in leadership in conservation authorities, to which I have already referred—that is, what I consider to be their infringement on municipal prerogatives in planning and the overlapping and consequent waste of public funds—can be at least controlled if not eliminated.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Chairman, I have some concerns in relation to this vote and I hope the minister can respond to them. They have to do with what I consider to be the underfunding, generally, of the Canada/Ontario flood damage reduction program, which provides a great deal of the money that is used by the conservation authorities in flood damage reduction programs, whether they be at the initial stage of flood plain mapping or at subsequent stages of actual remedial work such as diking, runoff sluiceways, dams or whatever.

I know the minister cannot control this, but it seems to me the moneys provided across the country from the federal level of government are really inadequate to meet the demand on a year-to-year basis. In combination with that, the funding provided by the provincial level of government is also inadequate.

As a result, every year we get into a situation where it appears that the ministry officials who are responsible for reviewing the projects the conservation authorities are considering and for the other projects that the ministry carries out directly in areas that do not have conservation authorities—for instance, some parts of northern Ontario—are really in competition with the conservation authorities, if you are talking about competition for a finite number of dollars.

9:30 p.m.

In my riding specifically there are two pro-

jects that have been considered for some time. One is on the Goulais River, which is a major river and one of the largest in the province that does not have a conservation authority established on it. It has a long history of flooding, some very serious flooding, and there is a large population along both banks.

I know the ministry is considering funding a flood plain mapping program for the Goulais River valley as a first stage in moving towards actual engineering studies that might determine what kind of remedial works might be necessary to protect the residents along that river.

Also, there is a minor proposal for diking in the municipality of White River, which also experienced serious flooding in the last period.

This is very topical because, as the minister has already stated in this House, we have a tremendously high snow cover in the north this year, as we have had across the province as a result of the heavy winter, and we might be facing—we all hope it does not happen—very serious flooding if we have a quick freshet in conjunction with a heavy rainfall.

I would like the minister to respond specifically about what I consider to be an underfunding of the flood damage reduction program and about what he and this government are doing to try to free funds for that program, both at the provincial level and by encouraging the federal government to increase its funding in conjunction with the other provinces. This is a very important program; it is one that I think the minister agrees is a very important program and one that requires adequate funding.

I hope the two projects that I mentioned in my riding will go ahead this year. If we continue at a level of low funding across the province and the country, we will have a situation continuing where conservation authorities are competing with one another for a certain amount of money, and the ministry that is responsible for providing flood damage reduction in other areas that do not have conservation authorities will also be competing with them.

In a way, it is a bit of a conflict of interest on the part of ministry officials who have to divvy up the funds. I am not suggesting in any way that any preference has been given by ministry officials to one over the other. But we need more action in this area, and the fact that we seem to have been going towards actually lowering the fund rather than increasing it, I think is going in the wrong direction.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Chairman, I wrote to the minister some time ago with regard to some

concerns I had about the operations of the conservation authority in my area.

I should digress at the outset and say that while I have no particular problems with the people administering the program, in my view we do seem to have lost our way in the context of priorities. I am quite concerned that we are not moving with the rapidity I would like to see, and certainly many of the people in my community would like to see, with regard to adequate flood control, particularly in Dundas and particularly on the Sydenham and Ann Street creeks.

Last March at this time we were subjected to some very serious flooding, which seems to occur with regularity every three or four years and causes a great deal of property damage for small businesses and for home owners in the area.

What is particularly ironic now is that this same conservation authority—lacking either the will, the desire or the money to effect meaningful flood control as we see it necessary—is in the process of inviting tenders for some wave-making device that will cost several million dollars and will be located somewhere in the Confederation Park area.

I do not mean to denigrate that idea. It may have some merit. I am not in a position to comment on it one way or the other, except I think it is a very expensive device and I do not know whether we would be well advised during these difficult economic times to allocate several million dollars for the acquisition of such a machine that would make waves in Lake Ontario and enhance the recreation facilities in that area. I am not in a position to comment on that, but in my view it seems very ill advised to see that kind of money spent when an immediate flood control situation exists in the Sydenham Creek area.

Another comment I would like to make, and I made it in my letter to the minister, was about a concern which I have and which other holders of public office in the community and, it would appear, other members of the Legislature share, and that is a concern about accountability within the conservation authorities themselves. I would really like to associate my comments with the remarks made by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon).

In my view, great steps could be taken to lessen the administrative control these agencies have and to bring them into line with the local councils, given guidelines that may already be in existence. I really feel that political accountabil-

ity is very important. In my letter to the minister I indicated a particular concern about one of the appointees who is not politically accountable in any particular way. This gentleman is from Ancaster, and he indicated that he was not particularly prepared or eager to consider development permits from the town of Dundas.

These comments were reported in the *Hamilton Spectator*. I sent them to the minister. I do not want to mention names. I do not want to get into a great dissertation on this, but I do find that those kinds of comments on their own should cause the government to take a long look at the appointments of individuals such as that, or at least re-evaluate that particular appointment. This individual is not elected, does not hold elected office; in fact, he is appointed by the government largely, I think, because of his support for the government party. He may have done a good job in the past, but if that is that individual's disposition with regard to development permits, I think we might possibly re-evaluate his position.

In conclusion, I just want to say one thing that is entirely out of order. I was attracted to the position taken by the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) this afternoon in his question to the minister. I hope that in the spirit of nonpartisanship and objectivity, equity and fair play the minister could re-evaluate the employment situation of the young man who was mentioned in question period today. It is somewhat repugnant that someone discharging his responsibilities as a conservationist in his ministry would be dismissed as arbitrarily as it appears he has been.

Mr. Chairman: I'm sorry. I haven't been following the way the process has been going. Has the minister been responding at all or waiting for a conclusion? Okay, we will continue.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, I would like to put a brief question, and I would like an explanation from the minister of the procedures with regard to the flood plain mapping and, more particularly, flood plain fill limits.

I guess it would now be about six months since I was contacted by the conservation authority in our area, which stated that before it could proceed to finalize the flood plain fill limits the local MPP was required to give a letter stating his views on them, whether he was in accord with them or what changes he would like to see. I pointed out to the person from the authority that this seemed rather an impossible task, with all the technical requirements that it

was necessary to determine, and I asked if he would send me a copy of the proposal for the fill limit.

I received a document that I suppose was about one foot by two and a half feet and contained about 200 pages relative to these limits, and I was asked to comment thereon. I got in touch with them further and stated that because of the highly technical nature of this it was unreasonable to ask an MPP with his limited resources to determine whether he supported this or what changes in detail he would like to see.

The whole project was held up for some six months because of my refusal to give a detailed reply. Subsequently, just a few days ago we came to an agreement that I would give a very vague reply to it after consulting with the local municipalities and so on.

9:40 p.m.

I am told this is the policy of the ministry and that they must have the local MPP's comments on these flood plain fill limits before they can proceed. I would like to hear from the minister whether that, in fact, is the case. I am quite sure it is. I have been told that by competent authority, but if so, what are the reasons for this?

I suspect very much that the reasons are political. This is because some members have objected to certain actions which have been taken by the conservation authorities, and have made some criticism of the conservation authorities and the government. That has not been the case with me but I know it has been true in some other cases, so they now want to silence the local members by getting them committed to any flood plain policy and get them committed in writing so they will not be able to criticize the decisions that are made later.

We recognize there are political difficulties in mapping flood plains and preventing people from doing anything with this land. We realize there are political difficulties. There are real political difficulties in saying to people that they may not put fill on this land because it will restrict the flow of the water, but it seems to me to be going a bit far to require the local MPP to pass judgement on these matters.

May I point out that the municipalities' comments are required. By and large, they have the technical staff to do this and they get a report from their engineering or planning staff on these matters. We do not have any such staff. We cannot go into the details that a municipality can go into or that the government can go into. I

have no alternative but to believe this is for political reasons only. I hope the minister, when he gets up, will comment on that and will be either able to confirm the fact that these requests are being made to the MPPs or that perhaps it may have been only the local director there who determined this in this particular case.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Chairman, there are a couple of things that I have concerns about in regard to the conservation authority and maybe we can get a couple of answers in this debate. One is the flood plain mapping that has been done by the authorities, in particular by the Long Point Region Conservation Authority in Simcoe. They came in and designated a very large area that cannot be rebuilt because of flood plain mapping. As a matter of fact, there have been some adjustments to the original plan but I think there should be more co-operation between the local municipality and the local planning people because, as the minister is well aware, the region does have a strong planning department and there has to be co-operation between the two levels.

I would like him to take that into consideration and see if they cannot come up with an agreement that would be acceptable to the municipality, because the record of flooding along the Lynn River in that town shows there has not been any flooding of any consequence in my lifetime. Again, we have to take into consideration the values of the homes that are there and the businesses that lie within that area, so they can be replaced and the community can be given that assurance.

We have three conservation authorities within the region of Haldimand-Norfolk—the Long Point Region Conservation Authority, the Grand River Conservation Authority and the Niagara South Conservation Authority. Again, planning through the Grand River Conservation Authority, we have had some problems where a municipality will support and the authority will overrule. I feel there should be some co-operation between the two and some recognition of the planning people within the region.

My other concern is the replacement of the dam at Dunnville, which is an old structure. Backing up a couple of years, the one at Caledonia, which has been in well over 100 years, was replaced three years ago and it really has improved by putting in a fish ladder. There is also potential for a lock facility there and it has been a great improvement. The last big expenditure will be the replacement of the one

at Dunnville, which is deteriorating at the present time and they are considering either repairing or replacing it.

I am wondering, just to clarify it for the municipality, how the funding percentages are worked out, because again, going back to the Caledonia dam, I believe it was funded 65 per cent by the province and 45 per cent by the local municipality. I think an expenditure of that type is asking too much of the municipalities to pick up that portion. Going back to the old system, I believe it was picked up 80 per cent by the province and 20 per cent by the authority and approximately 7.5 per cent by the municipality. I wonder if the minister could explain how that works and if we can expect a little more support from the provincial funding to make sure this dam is replaced.

It not only provides recreation for the people in the area, but, particularly in Dunnville, it is going to give access to the people on Lake Erie who are boating sports enthusiasts to journey up to Cayuga and perhaps all the way on up to Brantford. It is going to be a real attraction for southern Ontario. It is within an 80-mile radius of Toronto and people from this area would have better access than they would have to northern Ontario for recreational purposes. I would like to have the funding concept explained to see how it would work out and if there could be any better arrangements.

The second project is in regard to water storage and the Watson Dam project. I have asked for a meeting with the minister and the Long Point Conservation Authority and the township of Norfolk to decide if we can move ahead with that particular project. It has been in the works since February 1964, and I have an up-to-date report on the progress that has been made. Most of the land has been purchased and I believe the municipality and the conservation authority would like to meet to see if it is feasible to complete that project. A considerable amount of money has already been spent and, as I say, I will send a copy of what has been done to date so that the minister might be familiar with the project and its progress.

I would like to have the minister respond to these two points.

Mr. Stokes: Very briefly, Mr. Chairman, in the absence of the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy), I would like to say on his behalf and on behalf of the residents of Thunder Bay that we appreciate the fact that there is sufficient funding to cover flood controls on the Neebing and the McIntyre rivers. I know the

Lakehead Conservation Authority and all the people who are affected by water levels in that area are appreciative of the funds that are being made available in the supplementary estimates and for that we thank the minister.

9:50 p.m.

Mr. Newman: Mr. Chairman, I want to raise the issue of the conservation authority in relation to the county of Essex. The minister is aware that it is fairly flat ground and it does not take much to cause flooding in numerous areas of the county. It does not take a very heavy rainfall to have a considerable effect on the little river there. In addition, the sudden thawing of the heavy snowfalls of this past winter caused flood damage of over \$2 million.

The municipalities appealed to the government for financial assistance to help those who suffered severely as a result of this flooding but were turned down. I think it was unfair on the part of the government not to provide assistance to those who were affected, especially since the conservation authority did not have sufficient funds to assist in the development of the projects so sorely needed in the county.

I would like the minister to look the situation over. I know the conservation authority makes the decisions that have to be made as far as the county is concerned, but because of lack of funding they find themselves at a disadvantage in remedying, in progressive stages, the problems that confront the county.

The Grand Marais drain is a project that has been under development for quite some time. It should be accelerated because of the potential damage which could be caused by what in some areas would be considered a minor rainfall. I bring this to the attention of the minister in the hope that he will be able to find a little extra funding to alleviate the problems in Essex county.

Hon. Mr. Pope: I thank the honourable members for their comments. To the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), I point out that the conservation authorities in northern Ontario were established in response to severe flooding problems. For instance, the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority was established some years after the 1960 flood of the Mattagami River, which flooded out 250 homes.

The Lakehead Conservation Authority was established in response to some habitual flooding problems and the need for flood plain mapping in the townships surrounding Thunder

Bay, including the Cam River and others. The same can be said for the Nipissing and Nickel Belt conservation authorities. It was not simply for drainage but really in response to flooding issues as they came about; in fact, the 1960 Timmins flood is the flood standard for northern Ontario.

I agree with the honourable member that it is appropriate to review from time to time the status of the conservation authorities, their obligations under the applicable legislation and also the roles they adopt as they evolve. We have been trying to do that since last May. As I said earlier, we believe the priority should be in acquisition of lands in the flood plain, in flood control devices and mechanisms within those flood plain areas and also in erosion control where it is appropriate along the rivers and streams with which we are concerned.

Duplication and expense also bother me and we have been working to correct those. I agree with the honourable member that the facilities for the administration of the recreation areas are outstanding. We have been trying to indicate to the conservation authorities that they should turn their attention away from recreation facilities, interpretive and education centres, administrative buildings and pavement, to some of the priorities that I indicated previously.

For that reason I really agree with the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Cunningham) that when you establish your priorities they should be in some of these very severe areas. If the project has already been approved we have been trying to withhold funding approval in order to give evidence of our own commitment to a change of priorities. With respect to this particular situation I am sure that will be the case, but I will review it in the light of your comments.

We have been having discussions with the federal government about the funding of the flood damage reduction program and perhaps some other changes that we think are required to the program. We hope some of the underfunding can be alleviated in the near future. We are also concerned, and I am concerned in the ministry, about areas that are not within the conservation authority boundaries and about how we can continue to put priority on flood reduction and flood prevention programs in those areas. I have to admit that I think we have not done as good a job as we could up to this point.

Individual members have raised a number of

issues with respect to particular projects in their areas. I will take note of them and attempt to get back to each of the members who raised them tonight with specific responses. I have the details that the member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller) gave. I will review them in the next week or so and try and get back to him at that point.

The member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) raised an issue that I find somewhat disconcerting. We have tried to indicate to the conservation authorities that we think it is appropriate for them to consult with the local member. I do not think the impression has been left that you have to get a formal letter of approval from the local member before flood plain mapping can be approved by the ministry, but I will review his comments in the light of his concern.

Referring back to the comments by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, we have been telling the conservation authorities, it is true, that in some cases we are not satisfied with the communication with the local councils and the local members, that we want it to improve and that it should involve not only discussions of the need for flood plain mapping programs but also the parameters of those programs, the results of the flood plain mapping, the priorities in land acquisition and the priorities in the construction of flood control devices.

There have been one or two instances where there have been some problems with participating municipalities on the one hand and the conservation authority on the other because of this lack of communication, with the fact that we then ask the municipalities to adopt the flood plain program as part of their official plan or zoning bylaw, it comes out of the blue and all sorts of conflicts arise because individual property owners within the municipality have not been consulted early enough in the piece. We have to do more work in that area, and we have been working with the conservation authorities on it.

With respect to provincial appointees, we indicate to them that they are to look at the entire water basin as their responsibility and try to address the priorities within that entire water basin and that we do not expect them to attach a priority to where they come from to the prejudice of other parts of the flood plain area. That is specifically set out in my letter notifying them of their appointment: their duty is to represent the entire province and the entire flood plain area.

We are concerned about divisions that may

take place within the conservation authority structures because of the different municipal representatives and their attempts to get priority for funding and projects in their particular municipality within the flood plain area. We are trying to work at alleviating that, although I suspect it will continue to be a problem.

We do believe there must be municipal co-operation with flood plain mapping projects. We are aware that there is some opposition to our flood plain program from some municipalities and from some counties. We do not think it is appropriate. We think the expertise has been developed in this province at this time. On the basis of past experience the flood plain mapping programs that have been instituted superimpose the natural flood lines; actual floods have been almost bang on, and we can go to different parts of the province and demonstrate that. We hope that with this kind of performance and this kind of expertise we will get more municipal acceptance.

10 p.m.

We are trying to accelerate the projects, as I indicated, to give evidence of our priorities. We hope every conservation authority and every riding in Ontario will see the benefits from that kind of program.

I would like to thank the members for their comments. I may have missed some of the points but I will try to address them in my correspondence to the members.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Chairman, I want to follow up on a comment made by the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. Newman) because I do not think the minister answered it.

The minister is probably aware of a letter he received from the city of Windsor regarding assistance from the conservation authority to assist with the flooding problem we have experienced there. Has it ever been the policy of the conservation authorities to fund the types of requests that the cities have made for storm sewers? The major problem in the flooding we experienced in the city last year was the lack of storm sewers. Has your ministry ever done that? What are your thoughts in responding to the city of Windsor about that request?

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, if I could make a brief comment too, I feel somewhat better with the answer of the minister relative to this. I think it is a very wise move if the instructions really have been to consult more fully with the local MPP, with the councils and with the people affected. However that certainly was not the

content of the letter I received. Perhaps it would be helpful to the minister if I turned that letter over to him, together with a copy of my reply.

Much of the discussions between us took place by phone, but I did have the original letter and made the final reply. If there is a misunderstanding in the area served by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, or any other areas in this province, then perhaps that misunderstanding can be cleared up.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Chairman, in answer to the member for Windsor-Riverside, I am not aware of any precedent for the conservation authority program funding the oversizing of storm sewers. I am aware, for instance, of the city of Timmins where the storm sewer did drain into the town creek, which caused some flooding problems. The conservation authority program did get involved in the acquisition of lands along the banks of the creek, and building constructions of stone and wire mesh along them. But that is the extent of the conservation authority's participation that I am aware of.

Mr. Cooke: Do you consider this to be their terms of reference?

Hon. Mr. Pope: I do not think so but I am not sure. I will have to check before I give you a definite comment on that.

Mr. Wildman: It is called riprap.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Right.

Vote 2502 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes consideration of the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF TREASURY AND ECONOMICS

On vote 904, economic policy program; item 2, regional economic development:

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, the ministry is requesting \$6 million to be transferred to the city of Barrie to complete one of our requirements for the annexation of certain lands adjacent to Barrie for its future growth.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of questions. One is, given the fact that the minister knew this was going to be a reality and it was going to happen in this fiscal year, I wonder why it was not in the budget originally. One always wonders when we have supplementary estimates if the reason these are brought in, particularly towards the end of the year, is that it makes the minister's fiscal plate look a little

more interesting and a little better, and the fact that his deficit might have been quite a little larger than he projected roughly a year ago at this time, give or take a month.

My question therefore is, as this Barrie expansion has been in the works for some time, why did we not find it in the budget under vote 904, item 1, where your estimate for 1981-82 was only \$4,355,000? Why are you bringing it in at this particular time?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The answer is simple. I inherited this problem from many years back and in fact the negotiations were not complete until midway through the year, and one could not predict with any accuracy what the final settlement would be nor what cash flows would be required within this fiscal year.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Chairman, with your indulgence, if I may just ask one question, what will all these supplementary estimates do to the provincial deficit and where are we going to get the money? Is this going to add to your net cash requirements?

Hon. F. S. Miller: That is hardly on this particular estimate, as my friend knows. However, with the competence of this government, one should not worry about what it will do to our final fiscal requirements. As you know, you are in the hands of the most competent government in Canada.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Where did you have supper?

Hon. F. S. Miller: You are the second person to ask me that tonight. Obviously, the truth is that a number of in-year changes have occurred which you have been discussing piece by piece across the evening and the sum total of them is to increase our cash requirements.

Unlike most provinces, we do issue quarterly estimates through Ontario Finances, showing the in-year changes as they occur. I think the last time one was printed, December 31, 1981, it showed, if I recall, a cash requirement of \$1,464 million as being the estimate at that time. I cannot, with any accuracy, upgrade that but when that latest figure was printed it was based upon the then known overspending amounts, some of which are occurring before you today. The major changes since then in terms of cash requirements, either up or down, will depend upon the revenue flows against forecast rather than the spending flows.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Chairman, initially I want to indicate a little dissatisfaction with the kind of process we go through where we get a supplementary budget item and it just indicates the

number and the title of the section. It does not tell us at all what we are talking about. Here we are talking about a \$6 million expenditure out of a total package in this particular expenditure of \$24 million, as I understand it; this is the first instalment.

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, the first is one.

Mr. Cooke: Two instalments? So it is \$12 million? And the second one is \$18 million? In any case, we are talking about several million dollars. You can explain when you have the floor exactly how the instalments are going to be paid. But it seems to me we are entitled to a better explanation as to what this is all about and why it is that when there is an annexation agreement there has to be this kind of what appears on the surface—you can tell me whether I am right or wrong—bribery on the part of the government to achieve the annexation which has been under negotiation for a considerable period of time.

10:10 p.m.

There have been other annexations that have taken place in this province and there has not been the expenditure of several million dollars to achieve that annexation, under this vote especially. I really fail to see how this fits under regional economic development. Is this a slush fund? Exactly what is this item in the ministry's estimates?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, the question is fair enough and I have no objection to it. I will try to answer it fairly too. The regional priority budget in southern Ontario has for the last while approximated \$5 million to \$6 million a year, I think you will find, if you check back a few years. Some years back it was considerably higher. In northern Ontario I believe it was closer to \$60 million and it is in the Ministry of Northern Affairs budget, as I recall. That indicates the much higher per capita priority we place upon northern Ontario for the development of any economic or industrial infrastructure.

The relatively lower amounts in southern Ontario have been a result of the high level of existing infrastructure there as opposed to the north—the cost per person of putting it in or any other measure one wishes to use. The regional priority budget can only be justified if the normal fiscal capacity of a community cannot afford the measures required to improve the economic base of the community.

In a case like Barrie-Innisfil, where there are a number of problems that have resulted from

hotchpotch unplanned development, the cost of putting in sewers, water, etc. is quite high. A few years back—I guess when my predecessor was discussing it with the city and encouraging the annexation of Innisfil and other parts—it was estimated to be perhaps \$70 million or \$80 million. That was in an era when projections of population across Ontario were ever upward at whatever rate one had in that current year.

Time has shown that some of the projections of the 1960s and 1970s were optimistic. Negotiations with the city of Barrie and with the township of Innisfil lowered the growth expectations and therefore the cost of servicing potential industrial land to be annexed by the city. However, the province had encouraged that annexation in the interests of all the people present and I believe you will find a very amicable settlement was reached. It was negotiated at a local level and assisted by the province's regional priority budget.

After a number of discussions with the various parties, it was agreed that something like \$24 million was adequate and we agreed to pay it in instalments and in advance. It has been done to permit the industrial growth of that area in an orderly way to allow the municipalities to bank the money until such time as they require it, which is unusual by itself.

We felt that obligation. I say that quite sincerely. I, as a minister who inherited a whole series of estimates, some of which turned out to be grossly optimistic, felt the least I could do was put my money where my mouth was. I felt I should try to get the thing solved, get the communities to talk together, get them to resolve it amicably instead of in the courts. I wanted them to get on with the process of seeing growth in an area where, through the good graces of nature and geography, we have seen a fair amount of growth occur.

Mr. T. P. Reid: And Volkswagen.

Hon. F. S. Miller: And Volkswagen, which assisted greatly. I thank the member for reminding me.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Somebody has to.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, I am getting to that point in age where I have to be reminded of almost everything. In any case, we are doing our best to see that the infrastructure needed to encourage job creating entities is there.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Chairman, I would like to discuss another issue dealing with the question of the economic policy program with the

minister, because as I read the supplementary estimates that is the area we are in.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Only for Barrie.

Mr. Roy: The minister should not try to limit it. His own paper discusses a question of economic policy programs and I would like to discuss one of the programs that is not part of the \$6 million, but is certainly part of the economic policy program of this ministry and of this minister. That has to do with the sales tax problem.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Point of order, Mr. Chairman: I do not think any member of the opposition will argue or disagree with me when I say that through the interim supply motion I have probably expanded the rules for debate very widely, perhaps, unfortunately, to the point where they can take some time.

Tonight we are on a specific vote and item relating to a specific expenditure and I request that the debate be limited to that.

Mr. Cooke: Point of order, Mr. Chairman: I think the provincial Treasurer has to take some responsibility. When these supplementary estimates are filed, we are not given any indication of what the money is being spent on. We are simply told it is item 904 and it comes under economic policy program. We are talking about \$6 million and the Treasurer has the gall to say to us that we can talk only about this one expenditure in Barrie.

If we are to be restricted to the one item, perhaps the Treasurer should file a description of what the expenditure is, what it is for and some background information with us. They cannot have it both ways.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The opposition critic kindly spoke to me this afternoon. We exchanged certain points of view. I suggested people he could contact also, did I not?

Mr. Cooke: This afternoon I came over to you.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Chairman, you know I have great confidence and respect for the chair at all times and you know that, following parliamentary tradition, it is the chair that decides what is in order and what is not in order. It is not the minister. It is not within the purview of the minister to decide to say he has shown some latitude in accepting certain questions and he will be tougher on this occasion.

Mr. Nixon: He is asking for trouble when he talks about interim supply.

Mr. T. P. Reid: We may well vote against this if you are not careful.

Mr. Roy: It seems to me it is the chair that decides. If the chair decides the issue I am raising validly falls within what is called economic policy program, and I am talking about an item given to us by the minister—

Mr. Nixon: It didn't say anything about Barrie.

Mr. Roy: That is right. I should be allowed to proceed. I want to make it clear that the issue is the decision on the part of the minister and the government to allow the reduction of the sales tax on the sale of motor vehicles. That is part of the economic policy program of this government. That is what I want to discuss briefly with the minister.

Mr. Martel: Point of order, Mr. Chairman: I want to ask the chairman if he knows what this item is all about? Has the minister advised him specifically? Has he been supplied with the background papers so that the chairman can rule if someone is out of order or not, or is he supposed to accept the Treasurer's word and say it is restricted to this, unless the Treasurer is prepared to provide the documentation with respect to the expenditure he is talking about?

Surely it is irresponsible on the part of the minister to get up and say it has something to do with interim supply and that when we had interim supply a couple of weeks ago he allowed latitude. Who is he kidding?

10:20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Is there any further point of order? You are not helping this, Mr. Treasurer.

Hon. F. S. Miller: On the point of order, I have no authority higher than your own previous Speaker of this House, who alleged that I am the very person who changed the rules.

Mr. Martel: Well, you might have changed the rules, but if you are going to change the rules you should abide by them and provide the documentation so we would know specifically what item of expenditure you are talking about and so the chairman could rule whether the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy) is out of order or not. How is he supposed to rule?

Mr. Chairman: The member for Sudbury East has actually brought up a very interesting point. Is there any further discussion on the point of order brought forward by the member for Ottawa East in regard to the elimination of sales tax on cars and whether this applies to supplementary estimates?

There is no further discussion on it. The reason I asked for the opening remarks from the Treasurer was that in the earlier part of estimates covering the Ministry of Government Services that particular minister did not have any opening statement. The member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) got into a wide-ranging discussion. I looked for some interesting comments from other members, and the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) contributed the fact that because the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Wiseman) did not refer to any specific aspect of the estimates it was therefore open to a wide-ranging discussion.

I agreed with that, supported by a further legal technicality that I know the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) supported. In this particular case the minister specifically indicated what the supplementary estimate was attuned to—that was expenditure in regard to annexation in Barrie—and I am going to rule that the member for Ottawa East is out of order.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Chairman, through you to the government, including the provincial Treasurer: Surely what has emerged here is a lesson, which is that in the future when we have supplementary estimates there should be something comparable to what happens with general estimates: that is, a background indication of exactly what it is the money is going to be spent for. It is not good enough for the minister to get up when we begin to consider the supplementary estimates and say that this is what we are now going to talk about. How are the opposition members going to come in fully prepared? They may discover that it is totally different from what they thought it was. We are entitled to know what it is so we can prepare ourselves on the opposition side. Then the minister will not be in a position to have it both ways, to go very free and wide if he wants and to shut it down if he wants. You will know what you have the obligation to impose, and we will know what we have the obligation to speak to.

Mr. Chairman: I agree fully with your comments, I really do; and whatever process is used among House leaders or the ministers for negotiating the question of further explanation, I think it would be a worthwhile area to proceed in.

Mr. Roy: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I want to support what the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) and the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) have said. I prepared on the basis that this was a general discussion of

economic policy programs; I did not know that he was going to talk about Barrie. It seems to me that the sales tax rebates on the sale of motor vehicles form part of what is called economic policy programs. I prepared accordingly to discuss that topic with the minister. In fact, when he came here shortly before, I told him I had strong reservations about a certain part of that program and certain developments that took place or will be taking place in the near future.

So it seems to me that my colleagues have made the point very well that if the critics or people interested in participating in these estimates are going to be properly prepared, surely there is an onus on the minister or on the government department involved to tell us fully and completely, as they do in ordinary estimates, exactly what this item is going to be about so that we do not have to wait until the opening statement of the minister. How are the critics going to be prepared if they have to wait for the opening comments from the minister?

I appreciate that you have a tough and difficult decision, Mr. Chairman, and that you want to expedite the work of this assembly, but the fact remains that I think that, given—

Mr. Chairman: I am allowing you great latitude because I think it was a very good point of order. I agree with you totally.

Mr. Roy: You have showed great latitude. That is why I have such great respect for you when you are sitting in that chair, but the fact remains that when the onus is exercised in such situations and the government does not show more willingness to lay down exactly what we are going to discuss, then the opposition should be given as wide a latitude as possible within that particular vote. I am not saying that I could discuss, for instance, questions which are outside what is called economic policy programs; but surely this was part of it, and I feel that the onus should have been exercised in my favour.

Mr. Chairman: Well, really we are chewing out the clock but it is an interesting point and the Treasurer is dying to respond.

Hon. F. S. Miller: On a point of order: Let me suggest to you that I suspect the House leaders ordered the business some time back. I suspect the supplementary estimates, or the topics to be discussed, were tabled with the House leaders. I have had at least one member of an opposition party approach me. I would like to suggest that I and I suspect, my colleagues, as ministers are anxious to help our opposition, no matter how

we may disagree at times, to debate meaningfully. I would suggest they have not taken the time to research what was on the agenda.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Treasurer, you are being awfully provocative and in this situation I think we are having a very good discussion in terms of some of the procedure on supplementary estimates. I am sure the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) is trying to make a point of order, but we are debating my ruling. You are not going to debate my ruling? All right.

Mr. Nixon: I am responding to what the Treasurer said, something about "Surely the House leaders knew what this was." That is not the fact and he certainly would not want to mislead the House intentionally or otherwise. The only information we have is the printed supplementary estimates that were before me just a moment ago and are now before my friend the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy). The time for supplementary estimates was established by agreement and you have ruled that my honourable friend is out of order in pursuing anything but payments to Barrie, for reasons you feel are good and sufficient. Undoubtedly, we will accept that but certainly we cannot accept the Treasurer indicating that somehow he conveyed to some of us additional information when that is simply not the case.

Mr. Chairman: Well, in fairness, we will hear from the other House leader and that is it.

Mr. Martel: To support my friend, I do not know how the Treasurer can get up in his place and suggest that the House leaders had more information with respect to what was being presented than the rest of the members who received the supplementary estimates. All the House leaders do is try to arrange a schedule convenient to everyone. We do not have any greater in-depth knowledge with respect to the specific item than that which is before us. That is why I suggested in my initial point of order that the Treasurer should specifically indicate what the item is about so we would be adequately prepared to discuss that item. He has not done that. He might have given you a statement or he might have said something in a statement, but it is much too late to give a statement to guide the chairman once the debate has started.

Mr. Chairman: Order. You have made your point very eloquently.

Mr. Martel: The members should know certainly ahead of time, maybe by—

Mr. Chairman: The member for Algoma.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Chairman, I have a question with regard to government policy in regard to annexations like the one in Barrie. I want to know if it is government policy that if an annexation as happened in Barrie is legislated by the assembly the government then owes some kind of obligation to the municipality to assist with funding the excess costs and start-up and so on entailed in that annexation, whereas if an annexation takes place via the Ontario Municipal Board route, that is not necessarily the case.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I cannot answer that. My colleague, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and government House leader (Mr. Wells), is now responsible for those annexations. I handle the regional priority budget part of it.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, I want to bring to the attention of the House that we have recently had an annexation in my riding where a small town annexed a considerable portion of two small municipalities. This annexation, which is beneficial to the community as a whole, has caused grave financial consequences for the township of Malden. I think it is completely outrageous that the Treasurer of Ontario would

have money for some municipalities that are involved in annexations and can completely disregard the problems of others.

I brought this matter to the attention of the Minister of—stop instructing the chair as to what to do, I know exactly what you are doing—I brought this to the attention of the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and I brought it to the attention of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) and they both pooh-poohed the issue and they have not done anything about it. Maybe somewhere in the \$6 million, we can find a couple of hundred thousand dollars that your government owes the township of Malden.

Mr. Chairman: Is there any further discussion? The member for Welland-Thorold.

Mr. Swart: Perhaps I should move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. Chairman: Well, we are not going to finish this.

On motion by Hon. Mr. McCaffrey, the committee of supply reported certain resolutions.

The House adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

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No. 14

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Thursday, April 1, 1982

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Thursday, April 1, 1982

The House met at 2:03 p.m.
Prayers.

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. Speaker: Before embarking on routine proceedings, I would like to advise all honourable members that on Tuesday the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) raised what he considered to be a matter of privilege with respect to a letter by one Bryan Rowntree, president of the Toronto Automobile Dealers Association, calling on the members of that association to support a fund-raising dinner apparently organized by the Muskoka Progressive Conservative Association in honour of the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller).

At the outset I must point out to all honourable members, as I have before and as my predecessors have on many occasions, that it is no part of the responsibility of the Speaker to investigate and report back to the House. The Speaker's sole function in such matters is to decide whether or not a *prima facie* case of a breach of privilege has been made. If he rules that there is a *prima facie* case, then the House must deal with it as it sees fit.

I have examined the documents that were presented to me with great care and I find the notice of the dinner appears to be an ordinary notice of a political fund-raising dinner such as is common to all parties. Mr. Rowntree's letter urges the members of his association to subscribe to this dinner. I suggest it is his privilege if he wishes to do so and does not come under the control of this House.

There is no suggestion that the member for Muskoka was a party to Mr. Rowntree's action. Mr. Rowntree's motives for that action are his own and are not the responsibility of the member for Muskoka, nor indeed of this House. It is therefore my ruling that this is not a matter of privilege.

Mr. Roy: Just on that point, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, but it is not debatable.

Mr. Roy: Can I—

Mr. Speaker: No. There are procedures to be followed, and you are out of order.

Mr. Roy: I want to ask a question.

Mr. Speaker: With all respect, you cannot ask a question.

Mr. Roy: Can I raise a point of order, Mr. Speaker? You have to hear my point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I will hear a point of order.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, please listen to the members, for God's sake, before you make a ruling. That is all I am asking.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I will indeed.

Mr. Roy: The point is simply this: You have made a ruling that it is questionable whether you have jurisdiction to investigate this matter. I do not quarrel with that. Do you intend therefore to transfer this matter to any other official of this House, for instance the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), to investigate the situation to see whether there has been a breach of the Legislative Assembly Act or any other statute?

Mr. Speaker: Obviously, the member for Ottawa East was not listening. I said it is the responsibility of the House and not the Speaker to take such action.

Mr. Roy: Then transfer it.

Mr. Speaker: That is not my responsibility.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, if I may speak to your statement on a point of privilege: I understand your ruling that you do not feel you have investigative powers in this circumstance but, as I understand the rules, you do have the power to refer it to the standing committee on procedural affairs of this House.

Also, as I understand it, the government House leader (Mr. Wells) or the Premier (Mr. Davis) has the power to refer this matter for further investigation to that committee. I believe you should exercise your power to refer this matter to that committee for an investigation to make up for your lack of investigative powers in this circumstance.

Mr. Speaker: I point out to the Leader of the Opposition that was not the point in question. The point in question was whether you had a point of privilege, and I have ruled that you did not.

Mr. Sargent: Why don't you stop protecting the government?

Mr. Speaker: I ask the member for Grey-

Bruce to withdraw that remark. I will not tolerate personal references to the chair.

Mr. Sargent: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: You are out of order. I asked you to do something, and I expect you to do it.

Mr. Sargent: Do what?

Mr. Speaker: Withdraw that remark.

Mr. Sargent: I certainly feel you are protecting the government.

Mr. Speaker: I find your remark out of order. I will not tolerate a personal criticism of the chair.

Mr. Sargent: It is a total conflict of interest. You know it is.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Obviously, the member does not want to take part in the proceedings of this House.

Ms. Copps: He just said he withdrew it.

Mr. Speaker: Did he?

Mr. Sargent: You know my feelings, but I will withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. I appreciate that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I hate to lecture and sermonize, as somebody pointed out, but I have to point out to all the members that a criticism of the chair is a criticism of this chamber.

2:10 p.m.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

FISH TESTING PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, last October I reported to honourable members on the results up to that time of my ministry's comprehensive testing programs for chemicals in fish. Today I wish to bring that information up to date.

I emphasize at the outset two positive factors: (1) the increasing ability of our environmental scientists to detect and to analyse minute quantities of a wide range of chemicals and (2) the high priority that has been assigned to this continuing and expanding activity.

I will describe the results of two series of tests, one on minnows from the Canadian and American sides of the Niagara River and one on sport fish in Lake Ontario, the Niagara River, the Grand River and Lake Superior.

Spottail shiner minnows taken from the Niagara River contained trace levels of the

chemical known as dioxin 2,3,7,8-TCDD. Our scientists are satisfied the dioxin originated on the New York side of the river as a result of previous disposal practices at sites associated with chemical companies in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls, New York, area.

Fish species from Lake Ontario and from the lower Niagara River contained 2,3,7,8-TCDD but in no case, except in the lake trout from the Port Credit area, did the average value exceed the 20 parts per trillion federal guideline. No dioxin was detected in fish from the Grand River near Waterloo, and trace levels of one or two parts per trillion were measured in three of 11 lake trout from Lake Superior.

Niagara River and Lake Ontario drinking water supplies were tested for 2,3,7,8-TCDD and other contaminants found in the minnows and sport fish. Dioxin was not found in any water sample at or above the detection limits of 0.2 parts per trillion. Mirex and DDT were not found in any water samples. Polychlorinated biphenyls have been measured occasionally in Lake Ontario waters but concentrations are much below the interim Ontario drinking water objective of 0.003 milligrams per litre.

However, findings for 11 lake trout collected in the Port Credit area of western Lake Ontario are of particular concern. Dioxin 2,3,7,8-TCDD in these fish averaged 27.4 parts per trillion, with individual values ranging from 17 to 57 parts per trillion.

These findings mark the first time in the ministry's dioxin testing program that the average concentration of a sampling of fish exceeds the 20 parts per trillion federal guideline. These trout also exceed the unrestricted consumption guidelines for the chemical substances PCB and Mirex.

Medical specialists with the Ontario Ministry of Labour were consulted by my staff and have recommended the continuation of the limited consumption advice for lake trout from the Port Credit area as defined in the October 1981 Environmental Health Bulletin. This recommends that an adult male should consume only one or two meals of lake trout a month and that no lake trout caught in the area should be consumed by women of child-bearing age or by children under the age of 15. Anglers and consumers are advised to consult the Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish published by the Ontario government for advice on consumption of specific species at specific locations.

PCB and dioxin concentration in minnows from Cayuga Creek, New York, which contains

drainage from the Love Canal area, reinforce concerns about seepage of contaminants from industrial waste disposal sites. The dioxin level there, averaging 59 parts per trillion of 2,3,7,8-TCDD at the Cayuga Creek site, was four times higher than dioxin in minnows from other Niagara River locations sampled in 1981.

Dioxin was not detected in spottail shiners collected in the Nanticoke area of eastern Lake Erie which is upstream from the area and unaffected by industrial waste losses to the Niagara River.

The current test sport fish results support earlier tests which showed that levels of 2,3,7,8-TCDD are higher in Lake Ontario fish than in fish from other Ontario water bodies tested, and they support the opinion that industrial waste disposal sources in the Niagara Falls, New York, area are the main source of this chemical in Lake Ontario fish.

As I have stated, our drinking water is safe and of good quality. I am concerned, however, about the potential long-term problems which these increased levels of dioxin in fish may present.

Consistent with my concern, I would like to outline for honourable members some of the steps I have taken so that there will be no doubt in anyone's mind about how seriously I view these developments.

These new dioxin findings by our Ontario scientists are being communicated immediately to the Canadian Minister of the Environment, the Honourable John Roberts, and to the appropriate officials of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation.

In addition, I have instructed my officials to send copies to all the US and Canadian environmental groups involved in recent judicial proceedings on Niagara River pollution problems.

I am seeking, at the earliest possible date, a meeting with the Honourable Robert Flacke, commissioner of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, to discuss new and urgent priorities for pollution crackdowns.

In addition, the Premier (Mr. Davis) will raise the question of discharge to the Niagara River at his pending meeting with Governor Carey of New York state.

The Premier has also accepted an invitation from the Governor of Michigan, Mr. Milliken, to participate in a meeting on Mackinac Island about Great Lake problems. We will take this

opportunity to raise our concerns over transboundary pollution and especially the question of chemical discharges into the Niagara River raised by our current findings.

The US-Canada Niagara River Toxics Committee is continuing development of long-range plans for the control of hazardous contaminants in the Niagara River, and Ontario will continue to participate in hearings held in the United States to deal with pollution of the river.

The honourable members will recall that in November I established a special scientific team to deal with the problem of pollution of the Niagara River and to ensure that the quality of this river is protected and improved. My ministry's Niagara River improvement team has been in operation for some months, and I have now expanded the team to include a hydrogeologist to zero in on the suspected source of contamination on the New York side, including the Hyde Park and the Love Canal dump sites.

Our scientists are convinced that this dioxin originated and is continuing to enter our waters from American sources. Our findings give clear indication of a potential long-term problem. Chemical sources in New York state must come under tighter control, and some additional cleanup may very well be necessary in the very near future.

Mr. Elston: Are you considering any legal action?

Hon. Mr. Norton: We are already engaged in legal action.

WINDSOR WATER QUALITY

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I have a further statement which I would like to deliver at this time. I would like to inform the House about the results of my ministry's investigation into allegations that have been made about the safety of drinking water in Windsor.

These allegations were made by Professor Joseph Cummins of the University of Western Ontario, primarily during an interview on a local Leamington radio station, February 21. His remarks about the quality of Windsor's drinking water were subsequently distributed through an open letter by the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke) on March 9.

Professor Cummins's charges, as given to us in a transcript of that radio interview, have proven to be inaccurate upon close examination.

About Windsor's water, Professor Cummins says: "It's as clear as it can be, but there is something very bad with this water." He goes on

to claim that the number of spontaneous abortions, birth defects and digestive system cancers in this community are abnormally high and are attributable to chemicals in Windsor's drinking water.

He says some of these statistics are "incredibly spectacular. They just blow your mind . . . they tend to light up and say bad water, bad water, bad water." That is a very restrained statement for a scientist, is it not? He also advised pregnant women in Windsor to buy their water from London. And he makes comparisons of cancer statistics between the two communities to demonstrate that there is some kind of health problem resulting from Windsor water.

I take very seriously any fact or evidence that indicates any community's health is potentially at risk because of contaminants in the water or for any other environmental reason. When these particular allegations were brought to my attention, I instructed staff to launch an immediate investigation. The facts, as determined by that investigation, are simply as follows.

First, the water supply of the city of Windsor is well within the acceptable guidelines for drinking water quality. A check of test results from my ministry and the Windsor Utilities Commission consistently shows that there is no evidence to support Professor Cummins's allegations about bad water.

In fact, there is no meaningful difference between the drinking water quality of London and Windsor and no evidence to justify his warning to pregnant women that they drink only water from London. Staff of my ministry have advised the commission of this verbally and will be replying formally by letter.

2:20 p.m.

Second, ministry staff have met with the local medical officer of health to determine whether there are indeed any anomalies in health statistics that are attributable to Windsor's drinking water quality. They have been advised that the data do not support Professor Cummins's allegations.

In a letter to the Windsor Utilities Commission, the medical officer of health, Dr. Jones, concludes as follows: "There is no proven association between the domestic water supply and health problems . . . in my opinion, the residents of Windsor-Essex should have no fear from drinking the domestic water supply."

Ministry of the Environment staff have also received written opinions from Professor Frank Innes, a medical geographer with the University

of Windsor. He is conducting research into the epidemiology of specific mortalities under a grant from the Ministry of Health.

In his opinion, his findings for infant mortality and digestive cancers, while high in some instances, show trends that more likely reflect occupational, ethnic, lifestyle and socioeconomic relationships rather than the quality of the common water supply. This opinion is shared by MOE's medical advisers in the Ministry of Labour's special studies and services branch.

Third, Professor Cummins referred to a report done by the bureau of chemical hazards environmental health directorate of the Department of National Health and Welfare as evidence to back up his view that Windsor is suffering health effects because of contaminated water.

Due to be released soon, the Williams-Nestmann report is a study into the relationship of chemical substances in raw and treated drinking water to possible mutagenic effects. However, in the report's conclusion, it states that no relationship between mutagenic activity and the presence of individual or groups of chemicals could be found.

Fourth, since 1977, the ministry has been engaged in detailed work and monitoring on the St. Clair River. The entire purpose of this study is to define any existing and/or potential problems with the water quality that could have an impact on human consumption and to devise solutions before any problems could become serious.

While this investigation is continuing, there is no evidence to date to indicate that a serious water quality problem currently exists in Windsor. Strategies are being developed to prevent any potential problems from occurring in the future.

Drinking water quality is a high priority to me personally and to the staff of the ministry. We have been able to speak with expertise and accuracy on drinking water safety, knowing that our statements are backed up by a continual updating of our scientific expertise, technology and knowledge in this field.

There is currently considerable controversy about the potential long-term impact of minute traces of chemicals which scientists can now detect through advanced analytical techniques. In order for us to continue optimum public safety, I feel it is necessary for the ministry to constantly review our monitoring programs, our

knowledge and our testing capabilities to reflect the latest research into drinking water quality.

I would like to inform the House that the Ministry of the Environment is actively involved in doing this. In addition to ongoing studies in the St. Clair River, our examination of latest testing procedures and our fish testing program, which operates as an early warning system for drinking water problems, the ministry has under way a special examination of our entire drinking water guidelines program.

This examination, scheduled for completion in early summer, will ensure that our guidelines, technology, testing and monitoring programs continue to reflect the latest scientific knowledge about water quality effects on human health.

With these recent allegations about Windsor water, I consider it irresponsible when the best interests of a community are treated as they have been in this case. If there is evidence that a water supply is contaminated, I would hope that evidence would be brought forward immediately to the agencies responsible for verification and prompt remedial action.

I do not feel the public interest is served when questionable and unfounded allegations about public safety are aired as scientific fact. There has been much attention focused recently on drinking water quality, not only in this province but also across North America, and people are quite understandably concerned and certainly more aware of potential dangers.

In a situation like this, those citizens have an unqualified right to be completely and fully informed about the situation. But they also have a right to accurate and responsible information. That is the approach which the ministry has consistently taken in the past in matters of this kind and will continue to take in the future. I would ask the co-operation of both the media and the members of this House to ensure that citizens receive that service to which they are entitled.

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding, I would ask the co-operation of all honourable members in keeping the level of their personal conversations down so that the chair may hear the statements.

SPACESHIP COLUMBIA

Mrs. Scrivener: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I am sure members of this Legislature have been thrilled and excited by the adventures of the spaceship Columbia II and the men associated with her during her recent eight-day

journey through outer space as she undertook important tests for future missions, and were awed, as I was, by Columbia's incredibly beautiful re-entry and landing last Tuesday at White Sands, New Mexico.

As Canadians, we have been especially proud of the achievement of the Canadarm, the 50-foot-long manipulative device which is probably the most important component of the Columbia. Astronauts Jack Lousma and Gordon Fullerton heaped lavish praise upon its performance during the flight, declaring that it is a "fantastic piece of machinery."

Designed and built by Spar Aerospace Ltd., a Canadian firm based here in Toronto, the remote manipulator system, the RMS or Canadarm as it is called, was first tested on board the space shuttle during its November voyage last year. These two missions have confirmed beyond a shadow of doubt that the arm is indeed capable of conducting the operations for which it was designed; that is, spacecraft deployment and retrieval, as well as platform assembly in space.

This fine achievement has been executed within a remarkably short time. In 1969, the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, invited Canada—

Mr. T. P. Reid: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: We are all moderate people on this side, but you have refused to allow my colleagues to put valid points of order to you, yet you are allowing the honourable member to go on at great length on a subject in which we are all very interested and of which we are all proud but which really is out of order.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, on the same point: I was very deliberately allowing the honourable member to continue, because you are setting a precedent whereby all of us, on any given day, can get up and make a statement. I wish my friend had not said anything, because you would have allowed that to occur and, in conjunction with the ministers making daily statements, this side of the House would have been allowed to make statements as well.

Mrs. Scrivener: In response, Mr. Speaker, I would point out that while the members are perhaps making a valid point, in most instances very few members have an opportunity to bring to the attention of the House an important feat of this province and of this city, of a nature that is historic in world space transportation. Therefore, I would appeal to you to permit me to continue.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. I take exception to the remarks that were made by the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid). Indeed, I did not disallow anybody from making a point of order, valid or otherwise.

The member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) came to the heart of the matter, of course, and obviously there is an objection to the statement carrying on.

Ms. Copps: Statement is right.

Mr. Speaker: That is exactly what it was.

Ms. Copps: It was not a ministerial statement. It was a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: I did not recognize a point of privilege. However, the objection having been raised, I will uphold it. I will also make note of the great and historic event, and of the part played in it by Spar Aerospace of this province and of Canada. I would ask all members of this Legislature to join me in greeting some of the people responsible for this great feat.

[Applause]

2:30 p.m.

Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, may I introduce the guests in your gallery?

Mr. Speaker: I think we have already done that, other than by name. Unfortunately, I do not have a list of their names, but I suggest if you will table the names they will be recorded in the proceedings.

Mrs. Scrivener: The gentlemen in your gallery are the leaders in this operation, in the production of the Canadarm, as well as the head of all of the shop stewards—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mrs. Scrivener: —representing over 200—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is this the new minister for outer space?

Mrs. Scrivener: The New Democratic Party did not want their names read into the record.

Interjections.

PHYSICIANS' FEES

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, in rising to make a very important statement on the matter of the physicians' negotiations, might I first apologize to my opposition critics and others across the House who, I think, will be getting copies of the statement momentarily. I think they have them now.

Second, may I indicate there are one or two important typographical errors contained in it

and that is the result of the fact we wanted to be very careful with this statement. Copies are still being produced for some members of the media and others as I rise.

Finally, there are appendices to this statement which will also be forwarded in the next few minutes as indicated in the statement. I apologize, but I should indicate that I think it was important we not rush this matter unduly and that we take as much care as possible to get the right tenor and the right wording in this statement.

I would like to share with the House our plans to protect medical services in Ontario as a result of the Ontario Medical Association's refusal to accept what we consider to be a fair adjustment in the Ontario health insurance plan schedule of benefits. At the same time, I would like to deal with some of the recommendations which the council of the association has made to its members.

In doing so, I want first to make clear our belief that medicare is one of the most precious possessions of the people of Ontario and to re-emphasize my determination to protect it. To achieve this, we will take necessary steps to ensure that physicians are adequately rewarded for the contribution they make, that patients have the quality of care they require and that hospitals are able to function in a safe and efficient manner.

The situation we find ourselves in today is unique in the experience with medicare in Ontario. After five months of negotiations, including the use of a fact-finder, we have not been able to reach an agreement for a schedule of benefits, which we must have in order to pay for medical services provided since the formal agreement expired at midnight.

Since the inception of OHIP 10 years ago, the government has, in the language of our agreements, recognized the Ontario Medical Association "as the sole negotiator on behalf of physicians of Ontario generally with respect to the schedule of benefits."

Through an annual negotiating process, we have agreed to a global amount by which the government would enrich the schedule of benefits. The association would in turn adjust the fees for various procedures performed by physicians and OHIP would pay this amount.

Three years ago, the negotiating process was refined by the introduction of an independent chairman who could, on request, act as a fact-finder to resolve issues in dispute. While his proposals were and are not binding, they did

form a basis for settlement of the last two agreements.

Negotiations for a new agreement began late last year with Professor Paul Weiler of Harvard as our agreed choice as chairman. Professor Weiler was chairman for the 1981-82 negotiations and his report, which was made public last year, recommended an increase of 14.75 per cent to the schedule of benefits which expired yesterday. Last year the government and the Ontario Medical Association agreed on that figure and it was implemented. That agreement raised the income of the average full-time physician from \$67,000 to \$80,300 after deducting the cost of practice.

Members will recall that this year the government originally offered a 10 per cent increase in the schedule of benefits. The OMA asked for a one or two-year agreement with an effective increase of 27 per cent per year.

Although we believed the 10 per cent increase we proposed would provide physicians with a fair settlement, Professor Weiler found in a report, which I am formally tabling today, that a staged increase of 14.25 per cent would reconcile what he understood to be the principal concerns of both the government and the physicians of Ontario.

Regardless of what the government's reaction to Weiler might have been, the recommendation was almost immediately rejected by the council of the Ontario Medical Association. Their negotiators, in turn, suggested a longer-term agreement.

We found this concept attractive but, unfortunately, the OMA request was a complex variation of their original monetary demands which we calculated would, over three years, increase the bill for OHIP from \$1.29 billion to \$2.43 billion and almost double the income of participating physicians over the next three years.

Over the past three weeks, the negotiators for the government devised a series of options to alter the framework proposed by Professor Weiler with a one, two or three-year agreement. The outline of this is provided in a letter which I am tabling from Robert Butler, our chief negotiator, to Dr. William Vail of the OMA.

Within this, we proposed a three-year agreement with six increases based on the 1981-82 agreement. These are 11 per cent on April 1, 1982; three per cent on January 1, 1983; eight per cent on April 1, 1983; three per cent on January 1, 1984; six per cent on April 1, 1984; and a final three per cent on January 1, 1985. In other words,

for the next three years there will be increases in April and January of respectively 11 and three, eight and three and six and three, for a total of 34 per cent.

This would add an additional \$656 million to OHIP payments over three years and, using the methods adopted by Professor Weiler, would raise the after-expense income of an average full-time physician from the present \$80,300 to \$114,100 when it expires on April 1, 1985.

This was the offer which the council of the Ontario Medical Association considered and rejected yesterday. In doing so, the council recommended to its members a series of actions which the president described to me as the first phase of a plan which the council has to force the government to terms acceptable to the OMA.

Because these actions impact on hospitals and patients using the health care system, I would like to share with the House our response to them.

First, doctors have been asked to discontinue free advice or the renewal of prescriptions by telephone in order to force patients to come to their offices so that they can bill OHIP for an office visit.

As a bargaining tactic, this will be effective only to the extent that doctors wish to inconvenience their patients, and I doubt that very many doctors in Ontario will do this to the elderly, the infirm and the single parents who are the most vulnerable to such action.

With regard to the balance of our population, from the standpoint of ethics, this tactic would seem to suggest that physicians will bring patients back for unnecessary visits and bill OHIP for unnecessary consultations. Such deviation from normal practice will be apparent from billing practices and these will automatically be referred for consideration by the medical review committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Citizens who feel they are being exploited in these negotiations should report their experience to us and to the College of Physicians and Surgeons, which is responsible for ensuring the quality of care and ethics of the medical profession and practice in Ontario.

2:40 p.m.

Second, doctors have been asked to prevent pharmacists from substituting generic drugs for brand-named prescriptions for patients covered by the Ontario drug benefit plan—that is the elderly and those receiving social assistance.

This proposal would encourage physicians to increase their bargaining power and income by

forcing the government to use already scarce tax dollars on interchangeable but more expensive drugs.

As well, it would harm some pharmacists in the event that they were unable to obtain the necessary documentation from physicians to justify a claim for the cost of the more expensive drugs from the government. Thus, both taxpayers and pharmacists will be affected by this action in a way which contributes nothing to the improvement of health care in Ontario.

I should add—and this is not included in the statement but it is a very key point—that if this kind of activity continues we will have no choice but to take some action to make appropriate amendments to the Parcost scheme in this province.

Third, physicians will be asked to boycott all hospital committees except those dealing with therapeutic abortion.

The quality of medical care in hospitals depends in varying degrees on the various committees and as a result there is a legal requirement for hospitals to use committees if they are to retain their accreditation or teaching capacity. I have asked the Ontario Hospital Association, along with the Ontario Council of Administrators of Teaching Hospitals, to advise me on what steps they are taking to protect the integrity and quality of care of their institutions in the event their committee structure is disrupted. I do not believe that hospitals can ensure patient care without the participation of physicians on these committees and I do not expect many doctors can boycott them.

Fourth, physicians will be asked not to sign the cover sheets of medical information when patients are discharged.

In some cases, the practical effect of this would delay the discharge of patients or the processing of medical records. This could keep healthy patients in hospital while ill patients are denied beds and could make it difficult to obtain access to medical records of patients in emergencies. The College of Physicians and Surgeons has advised me that it will respond directly to any community or hospital affected by this action.

In short, we do not expect, but will not allow, any action which threatens health care or allows the most vulnerable group in our society to be unfairly treated as part of a bargaining technique by any group, no matter how influential or aggressive.

Which now brings me to a resolution of the situation we face today in meeting our obliga-

tion to patients and physicians using medicare in Ontario. While we would have preferred to proceed with a negotiated settlement, that is now impossible. The government has an ethical obligation to reimburse both patients and physicians for the medical care provided after our agreement expired yesterday.

We must properly and promptly reimburse patients of non-participating physicians who will be billed at the higher rates adopted today by the Ontario Medical Association. Also, in fairness to the vast majority of physicians who accept the OHIP fee as full payment, we cannot in conscience use the schedule of benefits as a tool in public bargaining.

May I say—and this is not contained in the statement but is a key point—that it was anticipated by some and considered by some that an appropriate tactic at this point would have been to make a lower amendment to the schedule of benefits in order to in fact set a lower base for future bargaining. I think I must show greater honour to the OHIP schedule of benefits and its intention and not use it as a bargaining tactic, as our statement says.

Therefore, rather than use today's change to either respond to negotiating tactics or to set the stage for further discussions, we have decided the appropriate thing to do here today is to do as we would ordinarily do, and that is treat the physicians and the patients as we think is right and proper in the circumstances. Accordingly, we will implement our most recent offer in full, effective today.

The OHIP schedule of benefits will be adjusted upwards by 11 per cent immediately and the subsequent steps will be programmed in on the dates I mentioned earlier; that is, a further three per cent on January 1, 1983; eight per cent on April 1, 1983; three per cent on January 1, 1984; six per cent on April 1, 1984; and three per cent on January 1, 1985.

We have come to this decision after a great deal of thought. We have looked for precedents elsewhere, and we have considered the traditional techniques used in conventional labour relations. Medicare and our relationship with physicians has no parallel. It is unique and must always be based on integrity and trust. Our final offer, we believe, is fair and reasonable. It will give the physicians of Ontario a just remuneration for their contribution to medicare and it will provide over the three years a climate in which we, together with physicians, hospitals and other health care workers, can deal with the many pressures on all parts of that system.

Clearly, the system cannot tolerate the kind of trauma which annual negotiations such as this most recent one produced, and I believe the Ontario Medical Association was well advised in indicating its preference for a longer term.

I am sure the House and the public will recognize the good faith involved in the government implementing in full the offer which we developed after listening very closely to what the profession said and the conclusions which Professor Weiler reached. We also believe this offer is within the financial capacity of the province and will not be seen to be violating any principles of the government's economic determination.

Finally, I think it would be useful to respond briefly with a variety of other figures which have been bandied about in the past 24 hours. The government's final offer is as I have stated and as I have implemented today. The final proposal we have from the OMA is for a staged series of increases over three years, which could raise the present schedule of benefits by more than 70 per cent by March 31, 1985. Over the three years, this would almost double the average income of full-time physicians from the present \$80,300 estimated by Professor Weiler's methodology to \$158,300 after deducting the expenses of practice.

In percentage terms the difference between our offer of 34 per cent over three years and their request for 70 per cent is 36 per cent; or in dollars approximately \$44,200 more a year between our offer of \$114,100 and their request for \$158,300 by 1985. That is as we understood the position when the negotiation process expired at midnight last night.

In conclusion, might I say I believe the actions suggested by the OMA are not appropriate in the light of the government's decision to fully implement our final offer.

The public will, I believe, agree that the physicians have been fairly treated. While physicians may have wanted more—as everyone does—I feel they have been equitably treated and that “job action” is accordingly inappropriate and unwarranted.

ORAL QUESTIONS

PHYSICIANS' FEES

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I must tell the Minister of Health I get no pleasure in hearing the statement he has given us today. What I am concerned about is the Ontario Medical Association's threats in a variety of areas. The

minister has dealt with them one by one, but his response seems to be, and I quote, he “doubts that many doctors in Ontario will follow the OMA's recommendations.”

He is hoping the doctors will break ranks with the OMA so that a number of the threatened responses—for example, prescribing drugs or giving medical advice over the phone, bringing additional costs into the system—will not come about. I gather the minister is appealing to their sense of fair play or the fact that there is no discipline in those ranks.

2:50 p.m.

What is the minister going to do if, in fact, there is discipline in those ranks? What is he going to do to protect those people who will be very much threatened by the action the doctors are suggesting today, as well as the further escalation of action that will come about in various stages?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, by way of responding to that, I should read into the record a letter dictated to me over the phone this morning from Dr. Michael Dixon of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

“Dear Mr. Grossman:

“As a follow-up to our meeting with you and Mr. Scott, I would like to formally record the college's view as to its role and function during the present circumstances. The CPSO is confident that its members will act in a responsible and professional manner during the current dispute with the government.

“However, it is recognized that when steps are taken which could disrupt a complex system such as the one which provides medical services, individuals may be seriously inconvenienced or even harmed unintentionally. As the statutory body responsible for the medical profession in Ontario, the college will be carefully assessing the availability and provision of medical services to ensure that patients are not denied necessary care and treatment.

“The college will respond to hospitals and communities which request an independent assessment of the adequacy of the arrangements which have been made for the provision of essential services should normal services be restricted.”

Mr. Peterson: In the event that the OMA plan does go ahead, obviously we are setting the college against the OMA and there is going to be a considerable amount of tension within that profession as we set brother against brother. I gather that is the minister's strategy in this

particular matter, to encourage dissension in the medical profession.

What I am concerned about is the power of this government. Is the minister prepared to exercise that power to make sure we do not disrupt the medical profession any further and, more important, to guarantee that every person in this province has access to decent medical care? What instructions is the minister giving to hospital administrators under the Public Hospitals Act to make sure there is no deterioration of services in those hospitals?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: First, may I say that the Ontario Hospital Association has issued a press release today which I had hoped the Leader of the Opposition would have had by now. I will read it for him.

"George Ingram, president of the Ontario Hospital Association, said today that the OHA will be monitoring very closely the effects of the Ontario Medical Association's proposed job actions on hospitals and particularly patient care.

"From the outset of this dispute, hospitals have relied on the professional integrity of the OMA and its members and their assurance that physicians will take no action to prejudice or harm the care of their patients.

"We are concerned, however, that the situation has escalated to the point of sanctions and the threat of more to come," said Mr. Ingram. "Clearly they have potential implications for hospitals. However, apart from the obvious administrative frustrations that hospitals will suffer, it is unclear whether the doctors' actions will affect the care of patients. That situation might vary from hospital to hospital and, in order to maintain an objective overall picture, I am today requesting every hospital to notify the OHA promptly of any significant developments that occur." That is Mr. Ingram's statement on behalf of the OHA.

On behalf of the government, I might add that we will also be monitoring that situation very carefully. We are aware that if physicians refuse to serve on medical committees then the hospitals will find that the committees, which they must set up under the legislation of this province, will not be able to function. They will be in violation of the regulations and the hospitals' accreditation will be risked.

I am satisfied at the present time that the OHA is aware of that and will take the appropriate steps within their hospitals to encourage their doctors not to do that.

I still believe that because of the implications

to the hospitals of doctors withdrawing their services from the medical committees in the hospitals and because of the other implications for the medical profession, when the medical profession sits back and looks at the implications of some of the job actions, now that the implications have been made very clear, these things will not happen.

By and large, the physicians in hospitals will not want to risk their positions within hospitals by refusing to serve on committees. Above and beyond that, I believe physicians in hospitals will not want to risk patient care by refusing to serve on committees which are very important to the proper handling of patients within those hospitals.

Finally, might I say with some respect to the Leader of the Opposition that, as he has watched this develop over the past couple of weeks, if he will reflect for a moment I know he will realize his suggestion of a moment ago that I am trying to divide up the medical profession—in his words, "set brother against brother"—has not at all been the hallmark of what this government has been doing for the past several weeks. There are all sorts of positions this government might have taken which could have had that effect, all sorts of alternatives which would have been much more successful in having that effect, and we chose not to follow any of those alternatives.

Quite frankly, one of my concerns in looking at the option of putting in a 10 per cent increase across the board, our original offer, was that in itself might have had the effect of causing more friction within the Ontario Medical Association. I chose not to do that because I do not want that kind of friction within the OMA. I had hoped that all physicians, whether they are members of the OMA, the OMA council or not members of the OMA at all, will see this to be a fair and equitable situation.

If one suggests that calling on the long, time-honoured system of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario to supervise a profession and be the ultimate disciplinary body for the profession pits brother against brother, then with respect one is attacking the very essence upon which the Law Society of Upper Canada deals with lawyers and the CPSO deals with the medical profession.

If the member believes the CPSO should no longer be the disciplinary body for the profession and that government should become the disciplinary body for the profession, then he ought to say that. Otherwise, I suggest with all

due respect his suggestion that this government is trying to pit brother against brother by simply looking to the CPSO to exercise its statutory responsibility is rather irresponsible.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the difficulty is that the government has imposed compulsory arbitration and a new contract on a group of workers with no means of enforcing it, so that the rotating strikes which have been scheduled can really proceed as though the minister had not intervened at all.

Aside from that—and we will probably come back to that—how does the minister intend to prevent violations of the law? How does he intend to prevent the kind of illegal behaviour that has been threatened by the OMA job action committee? Specifically, does he have and does he intend to make available the power to prosecute people who violate provincial statutes and, in so doing, place patients at risk? Does he also intend to prosecute those who counsel people to violate the law as he did with some hospital workers' strike a little over a year ago?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, with regard to that, the member should look carefully at my statement. I want to find the proper place in my statement because it was not done without the knowledge that concern would be raised. I would refer him to page 8: "In short, we do not expect but will not allow any action which threatens health care or allows the most vulnerable group in our society to be unfairly treated as part of a bargaining technique by any group, no matter how influential or aggressive."

3 p.m.

The words "by any group" mean just that. There is no differentiation in the sense that no group in society ought to be allowed to threaten health care or to treat our patients unfairly. All appropriate steps will be taken.

So that we understand the tenor of what this minister is trying to do, and the House can probably sense it, I prefer, and I think it is important, not to get into a situation where I am exchanging threat for threat with Dr. Reese, for the very reason that I do not believe, as of three o'clock today, any doctor has yet violated his code of ethics or broken the law.

I do not believe there are many doctors, if any, in this province who will violate the law or break their code of ethics. Given that state of affairs, particularly in light of the very fair offer of implementation the government put in today, I do not think it is constructive to the right

atmosphere in this province for a minister of the crown, at this stage, to start exchanging threat for threat.

If the member wants to conjure up various alternatives for us and wants to say the government should be doing various things, I can understand that. For those of us who are responsible for the long-term stability of the system, I think it is counterproductive to exchange threat for threat.

I think I made it clear in my statement, which I thought we worded carefully, that we would not tolerate or allow any action that threatens health care. I think that should speak for itself.

Mr. Peterson: Is it not true, when one distils everything the minister said here today in his statement as well as in his responses, that his policy and prayer is that the OMA leadership does not represent the doctors in this province, that he is counting on them breaking ranks, and that is his only solution to the dilemma we are in right now?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The internal order and the internal politics of the OMA, to use the Leader of the Opposition's word, are not my concern. My concern is to treat all doctors in this province fairly.

In terms of the internal politics of the OMA, as I said earlier, I might have taken a different position in terms of whether I was going to indicate my view of how the negotiations went and appeal to other doctors to take a different view. I chose not to engage in any of that, because my view is a subjective one, as is Dr. Reese's.

I think it is important that I not allow my subjective views to intervene in the internal workings of the OMA. It is not my responsibility to deal with the internal workings or politics of the OMA but to recognize its official role as being the negotiating party for the profession in negotiating the schedule of benefits.

I have to look beyond that in this sense: I cannot allow anything that was said over the table, any harsh words spoken over the table or, I might say in all sincerity to the Leader of the Opposition, any of the things that Dr. Reese or others said about this minister or this government over the course of the past three weeks, to interfere with our good and fair judgement with regard to how to treat those doctors.

Consequently, we decided to do what we thought was the fair thing, having listened to their arguments, and look past all the rhetoric or any of the things that have been said over the past couple of weeks by any member of the

profession in any way whatsoever. I think that is the proper way for the government to handle the situation.

Mr. Speaker: For the benefit of all members, I realize how important this is, but 15 minutes have been spent on one question. A new question, the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I will go to the Minister of Health again. I realize the very difficult position the minister is in, because on the one hand, on page two of the statement, as I just reiterated, he recognizes the OMA as the sole negotiator on behalf of the physicians of Ontario generally with respect to the schedule of benefits and then, on the other hand, he hopes they will divide in terms of following their leadership on this matter. Does that not perhaps speak of a breakdown of the system the minister is currently using?

Given that there will probably be visible distress for a number of people over the next few months, particularly the patients, which is a concern of the members of the Liberal Party, does it not perhaps speak of our need for a new system to negotiate these kinds of disputes? Maybe we should be looking at the suggestion of the father of medicare, the former royal commissioner, that we need compulsory arbitration to solve these kinds of matters.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, if the member's proposition is that the fact-finding process and the deal we have worked out with the OMA should be scuppered and not followed any longer, then I would say—

Mr. Peterson: There is no deal.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The Leader of the Opposition should learn the facts before he reacts like that. The deal I am talking about is this: if the member turns to the last couple of pages of the Weiler report, he will find an agreement, an agreement to negotiate. If he is suggesting that we should no longer recognize the OMA as the bargaining agent for the physicians of Ontario, then I wonder what—

Mr. Peterson: You are the one who is trying to destroy the OMA.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Hold on. I wonder who is trying to divide the OMA. The member is saying we should not recognize the OMA as the bargaining agent any more.

Second, I have acknowledged in my statement that the OMA played that role, that we met all the obligations under that agreement with them to negotiate, that they suggested a three-year agreement, and because I share the

concern of the Leader of the Opposition that the trauma brought upon the system by this kind of negotiation is too much for the system to bear, we have decided to implement a three-year arrangement.

I hope this will stand for three years and will allow us to deal with other arrangements and, as part of that, perhaps work out with the OMA, in spite of our difficulties, a better system for determining these matters.

Mr. Peterson: Surely the minister is not trying to tell us now that he has a negotiated agreement? What we have here is a unilateral offer on the minister's part and a threat to withdraw services in a variety of ways on their part; it is obvious the system is not working very well. It is also obvious that the OMA felt quite betrayed and very unhappy about the way the government negotiated in so many unilateral moves, bringing in fact-finders at times that they felt were inappropriate. That is a reality too.

They are not happy with the negotiating process. The minister is not very happy with it, obviously, because he was brought to this last resolution of the question. Why is the minister not looking at alternative methods of solving these kinds of disputes which affect every single person in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I have never suggested that the negotiation procedure was always going to be successful—

Mr. Laughren: Don't you understand the Liberal position?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We are going to get to that. But if members will pause for a moment, they will find once again that there was an agreement to negotiate, which is what I am talking about. That was the sensible thing to do. We agreed upon a certain process. The fact that this process did not end in an agreement for the first time does not necessarily mean that all parts of that process were wrong, nor do I think it means they were all right. In this case, it did not work out and we are going to a three-year arrangement.

Second, may I make it clear that I agree a new procedure or a different one has to be adopted in view of the difficulties this entails. Third, if the Leader of the Opposition is suggesting compulsory or binding arbitration, he should stand up and say that.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Just a minute. Just to make it quite clear as to why the Leader of the Opposition probably had some difficulty in

saying anything over the past three weeks while this assembly was sitting, perhaps by way of pointing out to this House the difficulty in negotiation, the following kinds of things happen. I think this is very important.

I quote: "The Ministry of Health negotiators have offered the doctors a clearly inadequate increase of just 10 per cent for one year, knowing full well this offer is unfair and unacceptable." That was the Liberals' former Health critic, the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne).

The new Health critic says, "'I think the government offer is very reasonable,' said Copps, noting that full-time doctors now earn an average of \$83,000 per year." The dates on those were exactly seven days apart.

Interjections.

3:10 p.m.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: To clear the record, I do not want to leave the impression with anyone in this House, including the honourable minister, that those statements were made in my position, or my predecessor's position, as the Liberal Health critic.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I can only speak for myself. Now that I am Minister of Health, I believe in the same things I believed in when I was Minister of Industry and Tourism. The member may have changed her principles, but I understand the members opposite have to change their principles as often as they have to change leaders.

Just to put the full context on the difference between the new Health critic and the old Health critic: two days after the member for London North took his position, the leader of the Liberal Party, who wanted the middle-of-the-road vote in his party, would not say how much they should be paid but suggested it should be more than a 10 per cent increase. That outlines the Liberal Party's various positions and points out how difficult it is to handle negotiations.

Interjections.

Ms. Copps: On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker: The minister has impugned my motives and I would ask—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You are brighter than that, for goodness' sake.

Interjections.

Ms. Copps: He stood in this House and said that I was changing my principles because I was

the Health critic. That is not true, and I ask that he withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker: With all respect, I did not hear him say that.

The member for Bellwoods with a supplementary.

Mr. McClellan: If he didn't say it, he should have.

Mr. Speaker: Now to the question.

Mr. McClellan: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the minister whether the procedure that has evolved over the course of the dispute—and the dispute is by no means over, because the strikes will proceed—is analogous to the proposals put forward by Mr. Justice Hall in the Hall commission, and specifically this one I will quote:

"My conclusion and recommendation is that when negotiations fail and an impasse occurs, the issues in dispute must be sent to binding arbitration, to an arbitration board consisting of three persons, with an independent chairperson to be named by the chief justice of the relevant province, one nominee from the profession and one from the government."

The minister has imposed compulsory arbitration and a binding three-year contract. The problem is that there is no third party to ensure impartiality and there is no means of resolving the dispute and preventing the strike from occurring on schedule. I ask the minister to accept Mr. Justice Hall's recommendation, which we have supported, and bring in a dispute settlement procedure based on his recommendation.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, it has been pointed out that 13 weeks ago some members of the party opposite were gleefully rubbing their hands. There were also prosecutions of people, some of whom went to jail, because they were in what are deemed essential services under legislation.

Is there going to be similar legislation brought into this chamber, or changes in the acts now on the statute books? Is it the minister's intention to charge anybody if the essential services to patients are not carried out? What is the minister going to do if doctors start dropping out of the Ontario health insurance plan schedule in any great numbers and go on the fee-for-service basis themselves?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to add to the statement I made earlier today.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. Since the Minister of Health has now guaranteed the doctors an annual income of \$114,000—in a rather dictatorial fashion, but none the less far beyond what Mr. Justice Hall recommended—will he go one step further now and outlaw extra billing?

If the minister is willing to unilaterally impose a fee assessment, as he has done, why does he not go the one extra step and eliminate extra billing once and for all and have one-price medicine in this province?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, it is simply because I believe that as of 3:15 p.m. today—and I do not want to give the date—we have a system that has worked in the past and that I continue to believe will work in the future.

Obviously, I cannot put a dollar value on the value of having the opt-out safety valve. I cannot tell him what figures we would be talking about if all the doctors were opted-in. All I can say is that to go the compulsory opting in route right now would not be productive to the system. It would be bound to cost the system more in the longer term and, in fact, we would end up with a total health care community that was less productive and less happy than it is today.

We have a difficult situation today but, in the emotions of the difficulties that we face at this time and at this hour, I do not think we ought to be carried away and move from a principle and a philosophy that I believe have worked very well in this province for very many years.

Mr. Martel: One out of seven doctors are extra billing. I remind the minister that I am a teacher by profession and, once an agreement is signed with my board, I am not allowed to bill an extra \$3 daily per student if I do not like the agreement. Tell me why it is that doctors are allowed this privilege. Why is one doctor out of seven allowed this extra privilege when I know of no one else in society who is allowed to do it?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I guess we should refer this question to Mr. Blakeney during the election campaign out west because, as members know, he too allows extra billing. I presume that even people who come from the social democratic part of the political extreme see that there is some value in having the opting-out route.

In point of fact, I do not mind saying to my friend that I find the way the Saskatchewan scheme works, where a physician says, "You, patient, are going to be on the opted-out scheme and you are going to be one of my opted-in

patients," to be far less fair than the scheme practised in Ontario. It is far less equitable than we have in Ontario.

I refer the member to some of his colleagues and friends in other provinces for a full and complete answer to that question.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, let us be quite specific. If the doctors follow the OMA's direction, they will be in violation of the Public Hospitals Act. Their hospital privileges are given on condition that they participate on medical committees and fill out medical documents. What specific instructions is the minister giving the public hospitals of this province regarding their power to suspend admitting privileges of doctors who act illegally?

Mr. Speaker: I think that was not a supplementary to the main question. It was a separate question. Do you have a supplementary to the main question?

Mr. Conway: I have a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate very much your care in the application of the rules, and I will be guided by what you have said in relation to my colleague the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps), but I would hope that when honourable ministers of the crown opposite stray, as they do so happily and so often—and I cite the Minister of Health's second-to-last answer when he clearly violated every rule of the book as I know it—you too would apply the whip with some vigour.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: I would be happy to, but I am sure if you peruse the standing orders you will see a minister may choose to answer a question as he or she sees fit.

The member for Hamilton Centre.

Ms. Copps: I am going to be asking a new question.

Mr. Speaker: Then the member for Bellwoods with a final supplementary.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I want to be clear that I understand what is happening here. The minister is imposing arbitration and giving what can only be described as a very generous offer to Ontario's doctors. In return for that, the rotating strikes and job actions will continue as scheduled and extra billing will continue as usual. Is that a correct understanding of the situation?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: What options does the government have, Mr. Speaker? The member

wants to use the words "we imposed compulsory arbitration" or whatever.

Mr. McClellan: That's what you are doing.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The government has several options. It could do nothing today and allow a situation where the physicians, in my view, would be underpaid because they would be working into this year on the basis of an old fee schedule and the patients of opted-out physicians in particular would be unfairly treated. We could allow all that to happen or we could take some action, as is our duty, in my view, so that people are remunerated on an updated schedule of benefits on April 1, 1982.

We exercised our duty to adjust the schedule of benefits. Simply, that is what we did. Whether the rotating strikes and everything else will continue is a question I cannot answer. Each and every physician in this province has to answer that question for himself or herself.

Because we have treated them fairly and have taken a step today that does not indicate we are using today's step as a bargaining tool, a tactic, a hammer or anything like that, but just intend to treat them fairly, it is my belief and fervent hope that this reasonable and fair treatment by the government will cause a great deal of that action and threat to disappear. I hope I am not disappointed. It will greatly change my view of the scene.

Mr. Martel: It is interesting the Minister of Health talked about extremes. That is an extreme. It is called dictatorial or dictatorship.

AID TO AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. In the throne speech, the Treasurer offered little hope to the people in the auto industries, save for the announcement with respect to a possible joint advertising program between the feds and the province. I am sure the minister agrees with me that is not a solution to the problem. Is the minister prepared to tell us what initiatives he is prepared to undertake to put some of those workers back to work in this province?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member gives me credit for writing a throne speech when I would hope it was His Honour who produced those fine words.

I will have an opportunity to bring forward a budget before long, and I am sure that once he has seen my budget he will be the first to stand up and support it.

Mr. Martel: If His Honour wrote the throne speech, I am sure he would not have made the reference to laissez-faire Liberalism that was included.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Who do you think put that in?

Mr. Martel: I can assure the Premier it would not have been His Honour.

There are at present some 25,000 workers unemployed either permanently or for an indefinite period of time. The cost to Ontario is probably some \$500 million this year.

Is the minister prepared to urge the federal government to pass content legislation that will require companies selling here to provide certain parts creation here?

Will he immediately establish a community adjustment fund to assist municipalities such as Windsor, Chatham and Oshawa?

Finally, will he establish a crown corporation or introduce an automotive investment program that will lead to the development of parts creation here in Ontario?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I assume the honourable member is asking these questions so that at the weekend meeting in Windsor he may have some fodder from our party to use in his propaganda machine. If it will help him, I will be glad to answer the questions.

Mr. Martel: I hope so.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Am I in favour of Canadian content for Japanese vehicles? Yes. Are we willing to urge that there should be a Canadian content requirement? Yes. I, along with the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Walker), have suggested that to Mr. Lumley.

Mr. Lumley has been to Japan. He has, I think, come home somewhat disillusioned. He was told to wait until there was an agreement with the United States. That agreement has been reached. I would hope that would pave the way for an agreement with Canada. I do not know if it will be restricted to a percentage of the market or total vehicles but most certainly the ultimate objective should be Canadian content in one form or another.

Mr. Martel: What about a crown corporation?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The question of a crown corporation is one that comes up with regularity—

Mr. Speaker: That was the second supplementary, with all respect.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, when the Treasurer is considering this array of new programs, will

he come up with one that will emphasize not only the Canadian content but also the Canadian ownership of our manufacturing enterprises so that his colleague the Minister of Industry and Trade will leave off his consideration to allow the sale of White Farm Equipment in Brantford to American interests? In the long run, that would see the loss of that industry and 1,000 jobs as well as our rights to the manufacture of the axial-flow combine, which was developed by Canadians in Canada, in fact in Brantford.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I believe the note the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk is getting may refer to a statement my colleague the Minister of Industry and Trade may wish to make on that matter.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, last year the minister's document, the Treasury study on the automobile industry, was leaked. We looked at it and it predicted what he called the worst-case scenario.

Now that most of the projections in that report are coming true, and that document indicated it was time for the provincial government to make certain policy decisions to create the jobs here in the automobile industry, what policy decisions has the Treasurer made and what programs is he prepared to put in place at the provincial level to enable the automobile industry to be restructured to keep jobs here?

Hon. F. S. Miller: My colleague the Minister of Industry and Trade is perhaps more directly involved in some of these matters than I am.

The question of our share of the total passenger and truck market has to remain a key ingredient in any policy to create jobs here. Unless my recollection of the figures is inaccurate, the value of Japanese imports last year was in the range of \$1.5 billion and the export to Japan of Canadian parts for automobiles was in the range of \$8 million. So one can see there is something of an imbalance in that area.

Obviously, the replacement of \$1.5 billion worth of imported steel, labour and components would create many jobs in our country; so I am sure the comments made by my Premier, the Minister of Industry and Trade and others to urge our federal government to see that we do have protective legislation have to be extremely important.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I wish to respond further to questions raised by the

member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) on Monday regarding health and safety conditions at Wilco Canada Inc. in London.

On February 24, 1982, a thorough investigation of this plant was performed by ministry officials and comprehensive orders were issued to correct the health hazards that were found.

As I mentioned in the Legislature on Monday, representatives of the company and of the Ministry of Labour and others were meeting on the same day. The outcome of that meeting was an undertaking by the company to fulfil its obligations under the lead regulation by April 16, and in the interim the company will be required to provide protective equipment and to institute work practices to ensure that no worker is exposed to health hazards.

3:30 p.m.

I can tell the member that on the basis of present information there appears to me to be a clear need for continuing surveillance of this plant and I have so advised my officials. The ministry is prepared to assist the company to satisfy its undertakings to achieve compliance with the act. At the same time, however, I want to emphasize that the company's operations will be subject to continuing inspection to ensure that the orders issued to date are being observed.

If satisfactory results are not achieved, the director of industrial health and safety has other measures that will be taken if circumstances warrant it, including partial or total closure of the operation and, depending upon legal advice, prosecution if warranted. This is a complex matter and our investigation is continuing.

Mr. Martel: Something bothers me, Mr. Speaker. The lead regulations came in last August and in their totality in November. There must be 25 to 30 contraventions of the act. The Workmen's Compensation Board should have notified the Ministry of Labour sooner. Today's London Free Press indicates that a medical report was sent to the ministry in 1980 warning of the dangers. How long is the minister going to allow companies to ignore the Occupational Health and Safety Act in this province without prosecuting?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I believe I have answered that question in my statement.

Mr. Martel: In other words, you're not going to.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: That is not correct. I have the answers to two other questions, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: No. I think we will proceed with the question period. We have taken quite a bit of time already.

Mr. Sargent: Get the Premier back in here, will you, please?

URANIUM CONTRACTS

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. I am glad to see him back so tanned and fit. I have been trying to get a shot at the Premier for a long time on this.

In view of the Premier's ongoing fiscal debauchery and the fact that he personally hurried through this House legislation costing Ontario about \$7 billion, for four companies that have already been indicted in federal courts on criminal counts for corrupt practices, for conspiring to fix uranium prices, and that at that time the Premier pushed this through the House on a time deadline at a cost that is 20 times the basic price for uranium, will the Premier tell the House why he personally is not in contempt of this House and the rights of the people of Ontario?

Why will he not take immediate steps to renegotiate these contracts? Further, until this process starts, why will the Premier not immediately block the \$650 million up-front loan with no interest for 40 years to Mr. Roman, who is now buying uranium mines with our loan? Why can the Premier not put this in motion immediately to renegotiate these contracts?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, if my memory serves me correctly, the member asked me this identical question, with a little different preface in terms of the rhetoric he used—

Mr. Sargent: I never asked it once.

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect, I think he did on at least three occasions in the last session and the answer is still the same. I can go through the litany, but my recollection is that this contract was not legislated. It was debated here in the House by a committee and executed by Ontario Hydro. If the member wants to get further information, he should read what I said in Hansard some weeks ago when he asked me a similar question.

Mr. Sargent: I have never spoken to the Premier this session at all, or asked questions in the House.

The Premier is the only one who can trigger this. It is \$10 billion now, because interest on this loan alone is going to cost us \$2 billion. Some people are going to go to the slammer for this—

Mr. Speaker: I am waiting patiently for the supplementary.

Mr. Sargent: We do not want to see the Premier there. Why can the Premier not stop all the BS? I can enlarge upon that too. He knows it is. Westinghouse in the US was in the same box at \$40 a pound, which would have made it bankrupt. They renegotiated through their Supreme Court and they totally cancelled it by a \$7-billion or \$10-billion decision. There is not a court in the land that would refuse to cancel this contract. I put it to the Premier that we respect him and I think he owes it to the people of Ontario. Because of the terrible things that are happening in my riding, we want some answers.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am not just sure what the references were to the problems in his riding. I have always been sympathetic to the constituents the honourable member represents, many of whom I have known a lot longer than he has. They have always had access and I always endeavour to help them. I do not know how that relates to the initial question or the early part of his supplementary question.

The member did make some reference to extraneous materials. I would only say, having listened to him over the years in this House, he might be the first to make a contribution to lessen that.

Mr. Speaker: That was the final supplementary.

Mr. J. A. Reed: That was the first supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, indeed. We have been through this several times. The question period consists of a new question, a supplementary, the opposition gets a supplementary and then another new question. The opposition did not have a supplementary so I am recognizing the member for Oshawa with a new question.

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Premier. He has had a chance to look at the impact of the layoffs at General Motors in Oshawa and so have I. Could he now give us some concept of what he will do for people like Joe McCullough, who worked for 25 years at Firestone, lost his job when that plant went under, came into this establishment, went through the committee system, looked at a layoff committee, looked at several options and had virtually all of those things shut down? Can the Premier now provide some hope for people

like Joe McCullough about their house, their job and their future?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I understand the honourable member has put on the Order Paper—or is involved in seconding, I am not sure which—the possibility of a debate as it relates to the automotive industry. I think that is the kind of question or issue that would be properly raised. I would only say to the honourable member—

Mr. Martel: Pretty weak.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Let me finish.
Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If the member for Downsview would exercise just a little patience I would be delighted to expand upon it, but I did not want to encroach on the question period.

I would say to the member for Oshawa that I, too, have parts of the auto sector in my own constituency. In fact, I was there on the line this morning. I drove one of the great products of American Motors-Renault off the line. I had in company with me the minister of industry or trade from France, the government of which has some modest interest in Renault, discussing the potential and future of that company and with some degree of optimism in spite of some of the negative comments made by some members with respect to that company.

I would say to the honourable member I think it has been clear in terms of the auto sector that this government has taken a number of initiatives over the past two or three years, some of which his party had rejected and opposed. I think it is fair to state that the auto sector—we all know this—does rely to a great extent on the American marketplace.

I am sure we will hear his solution to the auto sector problem this afternoon. That is the nationalization of the industry, moving out the multinationals, which incidentally would not be supported by the bulk of the membership of the United Auto Workers. I think it is abundantly clear to them that the main problem we face at the moment is the problem in the US market. Eighty per cent of the product, 80 per cent of what is happening at General Motors, goes to the United States. The member knows that and I know that.

3:40 p.m.

At the same time, I remain relatively optimistic about the future of the auto sector. I think one of the problems we have been dealing with is the penetration of our market by the importation of Japanese cars. Once again, I repeat that I

have no criticism of the quality of the product. I have no criticism at all, but I was interested to find in my discussions this morning that France has a very simple policy. Only three per cent of the market is allowed in from Japan. I say to myself: "Sure, we are being attacked now by the United States with respect to the Foreign Investment Review Agency, under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and so on. They have been able to negotiate a tougher position with the Japanese on imports."

I say the responsibility is there with Mr. Lumley and the government of Canada to take a tougher or firmer attitude with respect to the importation of vehicles into this country. That is a partial solution to the problem.

Mr. Breaugh: I will relay the Premier's answer to Joe McCullough. I do not think it is going to help him a hell of a lot. Perhaps the Premier might now tell us, in a small second attempt to find out, what he is going to do for those people, of whom better than half of those taking this layoff have worked less than 12 weeks in the last year. For many of them those 12 weeks have been all they have had for three or four years. Aside from the malarkey he has just spewed, what do we tell those individuals, those human beings and their families and kids, the government of Ontario is going to do to help them?

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member may refer to some of what I have said as malarkey, but a lot of what I said is quite consistent with the position of the United Auto Workers as they presented it to Mr. Gray, and to me, in terms of what they think a partial solution to the problem may be. The member can go home to Oshawa if he wants to and tell the UAW that what we are saying about content and importation is malarkey and he can live with that.

Mr. Peterson: I am interested, Mr. Speaker, in seeing the Premier's position evolve on this whole question of the automotive industry. A couple of years ago he was out to ban the Lada. That was all we ever heard out of him then. Two or three months ago he started to take a tough line with the federal government with respect to importation. Then, because it was an obvious, easy out for him to find someone to blame, he could come here everyday and castigate the feds.

Mr. Speaker: And now to the supplementary.

Mr. Peterson: My question of the Premier is this: He knows, I know, all of his internal documents show that even if the automotive industry comes back to a reasonable degree of

health it will not employ the people it did previously. We have to take corrective action here in Ontario in other kinds of industries. I want to know what he is going to do about those people who will never go back to the automotive industry?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to provoke the Leader of the Opposition by reminding him of his party's opposition to those things we have done over the years to stimulate the auto sector. But I recall what his former leader said, when the member was sitting there as finance critic, about the movement of the 1981 inventory last fall. The member was sitting there opposed to it. The UAW was in favour of it. It worked. It helped the dealerships in this province.

I can recall very vividly the member's opposition to many of the initiatives we took with respect to the auto sector. I can recall his opposition to Ford, to Chrysler, to many things we have done to give some stability to the auto sector of this province. I know it came home to haunt his party in the last election, and if he keeps it up it will come home to haunt him if he manages to survive until the next election.

I would say to the Leader of the Opposition, in as friendly a fashion as I can, he should look at what we are doing in terms of technology, the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, of which he was critical, and the positive potential impacts of this in terms of employment opportunities in Ontario. He can hold up his fingers in a big zero. That will be his batting record when he finishes his three years in office around this building. As a final word of advice, I would say if that is his starting line in the front bench, I have visions of him making some substitutions before too many weeks go by.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, with the concurrence of the House, I would like to ask if we could revert to statements. My colleague the Minister of Industry and Trade has a statement on White Farm Equipment in Brantford. I think the House would be quite interested in hearing it if we could have that permission.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that we revert to statements?

Agreed to.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

WHITE FARM EQUIPMENT

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report to the House a proposed resolution to the problems of White Farm Equipment in

Brantford. As the members know, my ministry signed an agreement in April last year to provide a \$2 million loan and a \$3 million guarantee to White Farm Equipment to reopen that plant.

This new Canadian company is now 50 per cent owned by Linamar Machine of Guelph and 50 per cent by TIC Investment Corp. of Dallas. TIC is the sole owner of White Farm Equipment in the United States. In the agreement reached a year ago, White Canada undertook to Ontario to maintain 1,200 jobs after 1983, to buy Canadian, to provide a training program for employees and to make future expansions in Ontario. It made similar agreements with Ottawa.

Since its start one year ago, White has faced a major and continuing problem—how to finance its dealer inventory, given present high interest rates. The present situation is a direct result of its failure to solve that problem.

The province and the federal government have been negotiating continuously over the past five months with the present owners and the various institutions that have financed White Canada in an attempt to resolve this problem.

The member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies), and I stress this, has played a valuable part in these discussions. I am very pleased with the role he has taken in them. I am now pleased to report that an agreement was signed last night. First, TIC Investments has agreed to purchase the shares of Linamar Machine and to guarantee the financing of the dealer inventory.

In addition, TIC Investments has reaffirmed that White Canada will continue to honour the spirit and the letter of its commitments to Ontario and to Canada regarding employment, Canadian purchasing, training and future expansion in Ontario.

The proposed agreement basically is identical to that already agreed to by Ontario and Canada last year, with only minor amendments. Ontario supports this initiative that will restore the 750 White Farm jobs in Brantford as soon as the federal government accepts the changes. I have indicated the province's support to my federal colleague, the Honourable Herb Gray, and I urge him also to support those minor changes necessary to get White Farm Equipment in Brantford operating as soon as possible.

ORAL QUESTIONS

(concluded)

WHITE FARM EQUIPMENT

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for

the minister who just made the statement. Since he considers the transfer of the 50 per cent Canadian ownership to American ownership as a minor change, can he indicate why TIC Investment Corp. did not accept the offer of a loan from the government of Canada to assist it in its dealer financing, which he refers to on the second page of his statement, rather than forcing the company to lay off almost 1,000 of its employees last Friday to put unnatural pressure on the governments of Ontario and Canada, as well as on the Canadian shareholder, to force, in my view, the sellout of the Canadian ownership in this important company?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, it was a complicated negotiating procedure and it was not solely a question of a loan that would have been extended to the American company. The question was whether the same kind of provision would be extended to the Canadian company and, indeed, whether the Canadian company was prepared to be involved in it. That simply was not going to fly in the whole process. It was not going to work. The member has to understand the complications of the negotiations. Then I think he would fully appreciate the nature of the problems they were beset with.

Mr. Nixon: Since the minister must be aware the American shareholder used his right to veto the acceptance of the \$20 million offered by the government of Canada, does he not feel he is being somewhat naive when he sees that he is prepared to support the loss of the Canadian ownership of this company, which developed the axial-flow combine, undoubtedly the best combine in the world?

In spite of the assurances he refers to, there is the chance White Farm Equipment may be closed down within a few months. The rights to that combine may be taken away to the United States and the patents which were developed with Canadian expertise and financing will be lost to us forever.

3:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Why are the members opposite banging the table for that? Are they all opposed to supporting jobs? That is exactly what it is all about.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, is it not the case that this government has buckled under to a power play by TIC Investment of Dallas to ensure the foreign ownership of this company and it is now asking the federal government to agree to it too? Does the minister not think he

should be doing something to protect Canadian ownership in this industry in this country?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, what does the member mean, saying something like that? This government has saved 750 jobs, as the member for Brantford can tell the members.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, I seem to be somewhat happier about the outcome of this than a number of members, but I would like to ask the minister—

Mr. Roy: You are all Tories, that is obvious.

Mr. Gillies: Albert, your plane is leaving soon. In view of the \$15 million investment in this company by both the governments of Canada and of Ontario, could the minister tell the House what steps could be taken now to ensure this company will not eventually be repatriated to the United States by the new American owner?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I am glad the member has asked that very question, because there was an imputation raised by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk that would have suggested that kind of repatriation happening. I just do not see how that is going to happen.

When we consider they would have to pay back millions and millions of dollars immediately and there is no capacity in the states to do that now, and when we consider they would have to build an entirely new enterprise, it just practically would not happen. The member knows that and he should not be saying that. He should watch what he is saying.

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION IN WORK PLACE

Ms. Bryden: I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Trade. Is the minister aware that Fleet Industries of Fort Erie is one of the 10 companies receiving his ministry's 1981 industrial achievement award for outstanding performance in the fields of employment, production and marketing over a three-year period? And is he aware that in the same three years the Ontario Human Rights Commission found Fleet Industries guilty of grossly discriminating against women in its hiring and promotion practices?

Is he aware this honoured corporate citizen has steadfastly refused to provide any compensation or redress to the women who were discriminated against and has also refused to have affirmative action hiring and promotion programs?

Will the minister revise the rules for judging

industrial achievement in this province so that any company that discriminates against women or violates any other part of the Human Rights Code, is automatically declared ineligible for this award?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Of course, those awards were made before I arrived in the ministry, but the net effect is the same. We measured the achievement of the firm in terms of its sales progress, in terms of its accomplishments and in terms of its employment.

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

Mr. Wrye: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: On Tuesday last the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) promised an answer today to questions that were raised on Monday regarding Dominion Auto Accessories Ltd. in Windsor, and we did not receive that answer. I wonder if we could get that answer.

Mr. Speaker: I believe that was my fault. He did have the answer, but because of the length of time question period was taking and because of the interest in other matters, I cut him off. I presume he has those answers and will perhaps table them for the benefit of all members.

Mr. Wrye: Perhaps we could revert to statements and have the matter dealt with by means of a statement at least.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think it is a question of reverting to statements; it is a matter of reverting to oral questions.

Mr. Stokes: No, he can handle it as a ministerial statement if the House agrees.

Mr. Speaker: Do you want to handle it as a statement? Is it the pleasure of the House that we revert to statements?

Agreed to.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

SEVERANCE PAY

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) raised a question concerning the Dominion Auto Accessories Ltd. plant in Windsor. The member noted correctly that the workers in that plant had not received severance pay under the Employment Standards Act, and went on to suggest that this indicated an inadequacy or loophole in the legislation.

The facts, as I understand them, are these: Two years ago, well before the enactment of the severance pay provisions of the act, the com-

pany employed approximately 150 persons. In the intervening period, the work force has fallen at irregular intervals in apparent response to progressively weakening markets. However, from last July to the date of closure on March 19, I am advised there were only 46 persons employed. I have no evidence in my possession to indicate that the reduction in the work force was deliberately phased for the purpose of avoiding statutory obligations.

The severance pay provisions of the act, which became fully effective on July 3, 1981, apply to full or partial plant closures where 50 or more employees are terminated in a six-month period. The purpose of introducing a six-month period was precisely to prevent the abuse to which my friend's question alludes; namely, the abrupt phase-out of business over a short period so that the number of employees at final phase-out is below the number needed to qualify for severance pay.

Without the stipulation of a six-month period in the statute, the potential abuses are obvious. One may argue that the six-month period should be longer or that severance pay should be paid regardless of the size of the work force. However, these and similar arguments were made when the legislation was before the House last year, but they did not prevail.

If I were persuaded that the act as it now stands did not carry out the intention of the House, or that the procedures as presently drafted were capable of improper circumvention or, indeed, that it appeared the present provisions would result in unanticipated inequities, then I would be prepared to consider amendments. However, as I have said, I am not satisfied in this particular case that there was a deliberate attempt to avoid the statutory obligation.

If my friend, or the member for Windsor-Sandwich, has evidence to the contrary, I would be pleased to discuss the matter further with them.

Mr. Cooke: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: It is unfortunate, I know we ran out of time, but the one aspect the minister did not respond to is the fact that nonunion employees are getting \$3,000 worth of severance pay, whereas the union employees have been cut out.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. That is not a point of order.

4 p.m.

REPORT

SELECT COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS

Mr. J. A. Taylor from the select committee on

pensions presented the committee's report and moved its adoption.

Mr. J. A. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, in accordance with standing order 30(b), I have a short statement.

The Royal Commission on the Status of Pensions in Ontario was constituted in April 1977. The commission met periodically during the next three years and in 1980 it produced its 10-volume report.

The select committee on pensions was established in 1981 to review the royal commission's report, but the select committee's task was not simply to endorse the royal commission's 163 proposals for pension reform. From the beginning, the select committee believed that it had a responsibility to offer constructive criticism of the royal commission's report and to make practical and affordable pension reform suggestions of its own where appropriate.

The royal commission's recommendations were organized into five chapters, and the select committee followed the same sequence of topics and proposals. The first group of recommendations in the royal commission's report dealt with a government retirement income program. The second group dealt with Ontario's relationship with the Canada pension plan. Parts three and four considered employment pension plans in the private and public sectors of Ontario's economy. The fifth and last group of recommendations dealt with special retirement concerns.

Government retirement income programs: The government in Canada provides retirement income benefits through federal programs such as old age security (OAS) and the guaranteed income supplement (GIS) and through provincial programs such as Ontario guaranteed annual income system (Gains). The royal commission and the select committee recognized that these programs require immediate attention to improve benefits, particularly for single pensioners.

The select committee endorsed the principle of the royal commission's proposal for a standard of retirement income adequacy, and the select committee recommended that it be linked to the average industrial wage (AIW). For single retirees, the select committee recommended that they receive not less than 60 per cent of the benefit that couples receive.

The select committee and the royal commission diverged in their recommendations on government retirement income programs in one

major area. The royal commission made a series of recommendations to eliminate some and limit other universal programs. The royal commission proposed allocating money and services on a strict need basis.

The select committee agreed that those who are most in need should receive highest priority for money and services, but the select committee also saw value in continuing the current universal programs. So the select committee's recommendations with respect to government retirement income programs reflect an approach that tries to balance the urgent needs of some retirees with the universal requirements of all pensioners.

Ontario and the Canada pension plan: The Canada pension plan (CPP) came into being on January 1, 1966, with the aim of providing paid workers with a basic employment pension of up to 25 per cent of the AIW. Since then, CPP has become more than just an employment pension plan. It provides disability pensions and survivor benefits. Some groups in Canada have also come to regard CPP as an appropriate vehicle to provide retirement incomes for persons who are not part of the paid labour force.

Issues concerning CPP include the level of benefits the plan provides, the persons for whom it provides pensions, the plan's cost to participants and taxpayers because it is not fully funded, and its investment strategy. At the moment there are those who argue for an expanded CPP which would include paid and unpaid workers. The royal commission's proposals reflect those of another concerned group which wants to limit further expansion of CPP to control its costs. On these CPP issues the select committee endorsed the royal commission's recommendations.

The select committee carefully examined CPP and proposals to expand it and the committee was persuaded that the cost of CPP, as it is currently structured, will be difficult to bear in the near future. An expansion would create costs that would be unacceptably high. As it is, premiums will have to rise, as was planned from the beginning of CPP. But if the royal commission's funding and investment proposals—

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The member for Prince Edward-Lennox is talking about a matter of great importance. As I understand it, when a select committee report is put before the House, normally the intention is that the chairman may make a brief statement about its contents and then move the adjourn-

ment of the debate on the report so that all members, at a time that is convenient to those particularly interested in the matter, may proceed with an orderly debate.

I would certainly regret if the member's important information were to be lost because certain members who will want to participate on the pension debate are not here. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that normally a motion for an adjournment on a matter like this is in order so that all members of the House can participate at a more suitable time.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the member for Prince Edward-Lennox has just about finished his explanation and will proceed with the motion for adjournment.

Mr. J. A. Taylor: If I may reply to my friend, I am sure he is well intentioned, but I thought this précis or thumbnail sketch might be of assistance to all members of the Legislature. The report is a fairly lengthy one and covers a very complicated subject, and I thought it might be of assistance to have this statement with the report.

Mr. Speaker: I point out to the member for Prince Edward-Lennox that these matters can and probably will come up during debate, and I ask him to be as brief as possible in finishing off his remarks.

Mr. J. A. Taylor: I have said that the royal commission's proposal reflects some of those concerned groups that want to limit further expansion of CPP to control its costs. On these CPP issues the select committee endorsed the royal commission's recommendations.

The select committee carefully examined CPP and proposals to expand it and the committee was persuaded that the costs of CPP, as it is currently structured, will be difficult to bear in the near future. An expansion would create costs that would be unacceptably high. As it is, premiums will have to rise, as was planned from the beginning of CPP. But if the royal commission's funding and investment proposals, which the select committee endorsed, are acted upon, the premium deduction should not rise above a peak level of nine per cent in the year 2030.

In the area of benefits, the select committee endorsed the royal commission's proposal to institute immediately the child-rearing dropout provision and to make survivor benefits not less than 60 per cent. The committee also endorsed proposals to limit CPP to paid workers and not to alter the goal of providing a pension benefit greater than 25 per cent of the AIW.

Employment pension plans: The royal commission identified a number of issues concerning employment pension plans. The chief was that upwards of 1.5 million Ontario workers are not members of registered employment pension plans or holders of registered retirement savings plans. As a result of the belief that private pension—

Mr. Speaker: I am sure, as the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) pointed out, this is very interesting and very important. However, with all respect, I think the member for Prince Edward-Lennox is bringing out material that more properly would be dealt with in debate. I ask the honourable member for his indulgence and to please move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. J. A. Taylor: That is okay. I am happy to oblige the Speaker.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I understand there is a dissenting report, and I think that should be covered in any statement that is presented to the House to make it complete.

Mr. Speaker: I point out to the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) that there is no provision for, and there is indeed no such thing as, a dissenting report. Now, having said that, I know the member for Prince Edward-Lennox will want to wind up his remarks.

Mr. J. A. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I will not ask your further indulgence. I was trying to be accommodating and helpful to all members of the House, and I will be happy to distribute my statement.

On motion by Mr. J. A. Taylor, the debate was adjourned.

4:10 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND RECREATION ACT

Hon. Mr. Baetz moved, seconded by by Hon. Mr. Walker, first reading of Bill 41, An Act to establish the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

Motion agreed to.

CITY OF BRANTFORD ACT

Mr. Gillies moved, seconded by Mr. Brandt, first reading of Bill Pr16, An Act respecting the City of Brantford.

Motion agreed to.

JOHN F. McCLENNAN (BLOOR)
LIMITED ACT

Mr. Kennedy moved, seconded by Mr. Lane, first reading of Bill Pr15, An Act to revive John F. McCleNNan (Bloor) Limited.

Motion agreed to.

CITY OF BARRIE ACT

Mr. McLean moved, seconded by Mr. J. A. Taylor, first reading of Bill Pr12, An Act respecting the City of Barrie.

Motion agreed to.

373800 ONTARIO LIMITED ACT

Mr. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. J. M. Johnson, first reading of Bill Pr11, An Act respecting 373800 Ontario Limited.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION TO SUSPEND
ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. Breaugh moved, seconded by Mr. Cooke, pursuant to standing order 34(a), that the business of the House be set aside so that the House might debate a matter of urgent public importance, that being the acute and critical situation in Oshawa resulting from General Motors' indefinite layoff of 1,750 workers, the equally critical situation in Windsor with the announced shutdown of the Ford engine plant, other layoffs in the automotive sector around the province and the failure of this government to introduce programs that would begin to address this very compelling problem.

Mr. Speaker: I want to advise all honourable members that this notice of motion was received in time and does indeed comply with standing order 34(a). I will be pleased to listen to the honourable member for up to five minutes as to why he thinks the ordinary business of the House may be set aside.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I want to put this business before the House this afternoon. It seems that no matter where one goes in Ontario, but particularly those communities that have some connection to the automotive industry, and roughly one in every six jobs is related directly or indirectly to that industrial sector, the picture is the same. On various occasions we have debated legislation and we have talked about plant shutdowns, but at some point in time it is important that this Legislature calls a halt to the process.

In the throne speech we looked for some commitment on the part of the government to

end the decline in the automotive industry, and it was not there. We have repeatedly raised the issue, both in human terms and in economic terms, in the Legislature. There has seemingly been no result of all this. If one goes to most automotive towns and talks to people who work in the locals and who work in the plants, in many of them close to half of the membership of once very active locals is no longer employed.

In my own community, particularly hard hit in the past four or five years were plant shutdowns and layoffs all related to the automotive industry. We have brought those in one by one. The end result is the kind of thing that happened.

I tried to get the Premier (Mr. Davis) to respond to the situation that one individual is in, a guy by the name of Joe McCullough. Joe is perhaps a good example of many people out of many plants like Firestone Canada Inc., Houdaille Industries of Canada Ltd., Malleable Iron Co., Pedlar Industrial Inc., Fittings Inc. and Sklar Furniture Ltd., which is a furniture company adjacent to us. They are all just ordinary workers, human beings who have done what the world expects a worker to do: to work, do a good job and do it for a lengthy period of time, 25 and 30 years for some of them. They anticipated they would have what most of us consider to be normal amenities of life, a chance to live a reasonable and decent existence, a roof over their heads and their children being able to receive a better education than they did.

It seems to me that this whole emergence of a decline in the automotive sector has brought about for each of those individuals a crisis in their lives, an emergency. And it is not a statistical emergency. It is not something that should be left to the experts. It is not something that should be studied and redefined. It is something that cries out for this Legislature to do something about it. That is my frustration. The Legislature here seems to be aware of what the problem is and yet seems unable to come to grips with it.

In my own community we have not had a good week in Oshawa, that is for sure. I cannot remember a week when more disasters hit one community, but it is there. Seventeen hundred and fifty people have lost their jobs on indefinite layoff. Of that 1,750, the majority are people who came out of other plants, who have managed to get about 12 weeks of work in the past year, who are not going to draw from the supplementary unemployment benefits fund to which the United Auto Workers and the com-

pany contributes, who are not going to get Unemployment Insurance Commission benefits for very long and who are not exactly people who can pack up and move somewhere else; they are stuck.

The impact on my community is going to be dramatic. We are one of the few in the country that, because it has that dramatic impact, puts the situation of the automotive industry in our community on the front page of the city's budget book. We know now, with this kind of a layoff, that our people are not going to be able to pay their property taxes this year. Many of them are going to have trouble with foreclosures. Many of them are going to need some kind of assistance. We are looking for this government, for this Legislature, at least to address those problems.

4:20 p.m.

That is what I hope to get out of this debate this afternoon. I want the members of this Legislature to attempt to deal with a problem that is serious in its nature, a crisis in a sense. I now you will have some sympathy for the recent layoff notice in Oshawa, Mr. Speaker, because when I do the gates at General Motors and talk to the brothers and sisters as they go into work, I see buses coming in from Peterborough, Belleville, Trenton and all over eastern Ontario. This dramatic layoff will have a critical effect in my community, and it will spread throughout the whole region of Durham and the rest of eastern Ontario.

If you add that to what has been happening in automotive communities across Ontario and, in fact, across the country, you have what amounts to an economic crisis, that is true, but it is also a personal and social crisis for people who have done no more than society expected them to do: spent their lives in industrial places making things the way other people told them to make them. It is neither fair nor reasonable, in my view, for them to have their lives ruined, to have their living taken away from them without this Legislature at least looking at that problem this afternoon.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I support the resolution. We hope that all members of the House will agree that the dislocation of so many thousands of working people is a matter of urgent public importance which, up until this point, has not been dealt with effectively or in any concentrated way by the members of this House either in debate or in response to government policy.

I draw the attention of the House to Hansard of Monday this week, March 29, in which my leader, the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson), asked a question of the Premier as follows:

"I am sure the Premier is aware of the layoffs announced last week; just to refresh his memory, there were 1,750 people laid off at General Motors, 1,150 at Great Lakes Forest Products, 925 at White Farm Equipment, 140 further layoffs at de Havilland, 150 further layoffs at Algoma Steel, 140 layoffs at Umex Mines and 120 layoffs at Armco Canada Ltd."

The concern in this matter is one that is felt by members on both sides of the House. I am sure the member for Oshawa, in his resolution, does not intend to restrict the discussion to only those dislocations that have occurred in Oshawa and Windsor. While those are extremely important and are ones that have not been dealt with effectively by the government here at Queen's Park, I hope it will be possible for those of us who are trying to cope with layoffs in our own communities to be able to speak about the matter as well.

It is certainly to be hoped, however, that the government of this province will not simply look at the acceptance of this resolution as another excuse to goof off from its responsibilities here in the House. I look forward to the chief government whip being in his place, as he always is during these debates, but if we are going to take it seriously, as we must when we are dealing with a matter of this urgency, surely it is the responsibility of the government members, including the Premier if at all possible, to be in the House so they can hear the arguments put forward and respond to them with their own plans.

It is simply not enough to have the kind of glib reaction we had from the Premier in question period here today when he said that if the government of Canada would act and restrict Japanese imports our problems would be solved. We know that is one alternative that should be considered, and one that should be considered more fully in this House than the way it has been treated by the Premier, who said last year that Lada of the Soviet Union was our principal bugbear in this connection.

I hope the members of the government will be here. If they cannot all be here, then at least there should be a substantial representation. I urge all members of the House not only to approve the setting aside of the ordinary business but also to be here with their attention and

to participate on behalf of so many of our citizens who are affected by the situation described in the resolution put forward by the member for Oshawa.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I do not think any government in Canada has been more interested in working out and trying to solve the problem in the automobile industry than this government. Of the 11 governments that represent the people across this country, I do not think there is any other government that has taken a more direct stand and got directly involved in advocacy of the resolution of the problems besetting us in this industry.

We have met with the industrial parts people and with manufacturers and labour. Indeed, we have presented a strong and determined position that is in concert with the United Automobile Workers, with the auto parts manufacturers and with the automobile manufacturers. We have all presented this case strongly as a united front to the federal government.

Mr. Cassidy: You ignored the industry all these years.

Hon. Mr. Walker: That is not quite right. The member for Ottawa Centre knows better than that. We have not heard from him for a while and it is better not to.

We have participated in a variety of automobile-involved matters. I am thinking of the Perkins-Chrysler diesel engine plant. We are trying to be very much a part of that, encouraging the ultimate deal. We have had continuous funding through the Ontario Development Corporation for auto parts investment projects. There was a commitment to Chrysler some time ago. Of course, there was the commitment to Ford several years ago in 1978 that saw the creation of many jobs.

I do not think there has been anyone more determined than the Premier, my predecessor in this ministry, the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) and myself in trying to get the problem solved as best we can within the provincial framework. We recognize the situation is very difficult. We recognize that in this province there are some 3,300 employees who are on indefinite layoffs. We realize the pain and suffering that must go through the mind of anyone beset with this kind of situation.

When the Oshawa plant layoffs finally take effect, when that second shift ultimately takes effect, there will be some 5,000 people who will be eliminated from jobs. This is very disturbing, although I have to say that while the figures

have reached those proportions, they are substantially below the 11,700 people we had laid off in the automobile industry in July 1980; so there has been a substantial change.

Conditions in the industry are much worse in the United States. While it is not much of a salvation in terms of the Ontario situation to point to the American situation, it is far worse there. Given that 80 per cent of our total production goes to the American market, given the sales figures they have had in the United States, and given the kinds of layoffs they have had there, exceeding 253,000—which exceed last year's figure, by the way—at least we are not in the same straits they seem to be in.

The American automobile industry has certainly been experiencing difficulties since 1979. With the fuel price increases, the cost of the vehicles and the redesign that has been involved, the cost has been phenomenal. It has certainly taken its toll.

We can say many things about this industry, Mr. Speaker, and should you decide to allow a debate to go forward this afternoon, I look forward to having the business of the House set aside and to presenting more of our views and our position.

We are prepared to support setting aside the business of today to discuss this rather important issue. I note, though, it was just a year ago, April 10, 1980, that another emergency debate was held on the automobile industry. One has to question the word "emergency," but there is no doubt that this is of concern to everyone in this House. It has no political side. It has no politics in it. All of us here have the same concern. Everybody should keep that in mind. We are looking for solutions.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened carefully and with great interest to the comments of the members of all three parties. There is no doubt that this is a matter of great concern. There appears to be unanimous consent as to the degree of seriousness of the concern. I therefore put the question to the House. I find the motion in order. Shall the debate proceed?

Motion agreed to.

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased the Legislature has decided to allow this debate to proceed. I want to indicate, though, that in our opinion the government's response to the crisis in the auto industry has been very weak, and that is being kind.

4:30 p.m.

A prime example of the weakness of this government's response is the Premier's (Mr. Davis) speech to the first ministers' conference on the economy held in February of this year. Out of 11 pages on the economy, he made the following comments about the auto industry:

"In particular, governments should co-operate in the implementation of a national automotive parts program which would allow this critical industry to restructure to meet its competition.

"While that restructuring is taking place, Ontario would urge the federal government to increase substantially the Canadian content in vehicles imported from offshore. Surely some degree of domestic control within the automotive industry, an employer of thousands, is as worthy a goal as Canadian content is on our airwaves."

Those are comments that no one would disagree with, but what has this government done to accomplish this? Out of an 11-page speech by the Premier on the national economy, he spent two small paragraphs talking about the most important sector, the most important aspect of our manufacturing sector here in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Who was it who forced the meeting with Lumley? Who was it?

Mr. Cooke: The minister who is talking right now understands that the basis of the economy in Ontario means the automobile industry is as important to Ontario as the oil industry is to Alberta. Can the members of this Legislature imagine what Premier Lougheed would be saying if his oil industry was going down the tubes the way the automobile industry has been in Ontario for the last number of years? He would be speaking out, he would be putting proposals forward and he would be speaking out in the way he did when there were negotiations on the price of energy.

Can members imagine how Brian Peckford would react if the federal government was doing nothing about the fisheries industry? Members know what Premier Blakeney did when the government of Canada decided to change the Crow rate.

This government simply has not reacted, has not put proposals forward and it is as much at fault as is the federal government because it has not taken the problem seriously. Instead, they continue to blame the federal government and continue to say that if Japanese imports were eliminated, the problems would go away. That is utter nonsense.

The fact of the matter is the deficit with the

United States is just as significant and it is 30 per cent higher than that of the Japanese deficit. In 1981, the export of Canadian auto parts to the US increased by 25.6 per cent to \$3 billion, but imports of auto parts from the United States increased by 29.2 per cent to \$6.86 billion. That is the kind of deficit we are talking about in the auto parts sector.

Canadian content in North American vehicles in 1964 was 58 per cent. In 1981, it was around 60 per cent. When we look at the individual companies, we are talking about 50 per cent for Chrysler, 50 per cent for Ford and 60 per cent for General Motors. Yet this government says the Japanese are going to have to reach 85 per cent. What is wrong with 100 per cent Canadian value added for all auto makers who want to sell here in Canada? The job creation potential is 20,000 to 30,000 jobs and most of those jobs would be here in Ontario.

Canada's share contradicts the misleading figures the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Walker) and his predecessor have presented to this Legislature time and time again. Canada's share of North American employment was 8.6 per cent in 1981 in the automobile sector, down from 9.3 per cent. Employment dropped 30.7 per cent to 85,600, yet in the United States employment declined by 20.5 per cent. The fact is we have been hit harder by this automobile crisis and the reason is that this government continues to neglect and refuses to address the structural problems that exist in the industry.

In the auto parts sector, employment was down to 38,000 employees from 63,000 employees. Communities like Chatham have a 40 per cent unemployment rate in the automobile sector and communities such as Kitchener have a 45 per cent unemployment rate. The situation in Windsor has been in a critical condition for going on four years now, yet this government refuses to act.

We can look at the foreign imports which are also part of the problem. This party understands that, but this party is not so silly as to believe that only the Japanese imports are causing the problems. We can look at Honda, for example, where from 1980 to 1981 imports are up 35.5 per cent; or Toyota where they are up 45.7 per cent, or Mazda where they are up 87.7 per cent. The figures are there. We understand the problems, but what are the Minister of Industry and Trade and his government prepared to do?

We put forward our proposals. Let me go through them very quickly. We have had an auto strategy and it will be debated, but it is

about time this government responded instead of saying the only solution is the government of Canada. There are things that can be done at the provincial level.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Tell us you are going to nationalize.

Mr. Cooke: Maybe the minister would be quiet; we will listen to him later on. It might sink through that skull of his and his cabinet colleagues and they might do something for the auto industry.

We need content legislation. There is no doubt about that at all. We are not calling for 85 per cent Canadian content; we are calling for 100 per cent Canadian content. It is remarkable that the minister's predecessor also supported 100 per cent Canadian content, but he dropped back down to 85 per cent this year.

We also suggest we should establish an interdepartmental office of automotive policy to co-ordinate the programs and policies that should exist at the provincial level. We are also calling for a community adjustment fund that would provide direct aid to workers, like the one raised by the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh). It would also provide aid to the communities suffering from increased welfare rates and increased demands on social services because of high unemployment.

A further part of the community adjustment fund proposal is that the money be used to restructure industries in those communities to assist in diversification and in the creation of new jobs.

We also believe the government must obtain a significant presence in the auto parts sector. That means getting into joint ventures with Canadian-owned auto parts firms and getting into research and development in a big way so that we are technologically competitive. It means we must provide some capital to the auto parts sector through joint ventures and through part ownership. That way we can not only have a say in how the industry progresses but we can also have a stake in its future—a window on the industry, if you want to call it—but also an expansion of the Canadian auto parts sector, not just the multinationals that dominate the auto parts sector in Ontario at present.

We also feel there has to be a plan of Canadianization in this province for the large multinationals. The fact is that 65 per cent of the workers—

Mr. Riddell: You cannot get away from your foreign ownership mentality. That is all you can

think of—foreign ownership, foreign investment.

Mr. Swart: Oh, be quiet and listen. You may learn something.

Mr. Cooke: One of the structural problems that has caused the problems we have in the auto industry right now is ownership. The fact is that 65 per cent of the workers in the auto parts sector work for the multinationals. With the decline in the tariff rates, many of the multinationals will be moving out of Ontario and out of our market and shipping their parts in. The deficit is going to get larger, there will be a smaller investment and fewer jobs because of that structural problem.

It is no accident. The lack of research and development, the lack of reinvestment of profits and the lack of a proper mix of skilled and unskilled workers in the auto sector; those things all exist because of the foreign ownership and the structural difficulties in the industry.

I ask that the minister and this government take this problem seriously. Instead of approaching it simply on a fed-bashing basis and instead of just blaming the federal Liberals, who certainly do deserve a fair amount of the blame, he should take his responsibilities seriously and implement a program. If he does not like our program he should come up with an alternative program, but let us create some jobs. The auto industry is essential to the future development of the economy in Ontario.

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I am very glad there was general agreement during my earlier remarks that the debate should not be restricted simply to the unfortunate situation in Oshawa and Windsor. There was general agreement that we are talking about UAW members laid off in any part. I am interested to note that the member for York South feels the UAW members from Brantford should not be considered under the NDP resolution. Is he objecting?

Mr. MacDonald: No.

Mr. Nixon: That is good. I just wanted to be sure there would be no objections. Once Mr. Makarchuk had left the House the NDP seems to have forgotten about Brantford. I am not sure what that means but it is rather interesting.

The initiative taken by the minister today, announcing his support for the sellout of the Canadian interest of White Farm Equipment to American concerns, affords me an opportunity to respond. This is directly on the meat of the resolution, since the trigger that brought about

the decision to support the sellout was the layoff last Friday of 925 employees of White Farm Equipment. There is only a limited time at my disposal, but I want to say I regret no one in government at either level undertook to consult me, as an elected member for part of the city of Brantford, and since many of my constituents are employed in that company.

Since I am not a member of the government party, I suppose the minister can justify this. Even though I did bring the matter directly to his attention, he simply gave me his assurances that everything would be all right. I appreciate that, but the fact that I am a member for the area means I have a role to play too, which I consider to be extremely important.

I am very concerned that the minister's solution to this problem is to sell 50 per cent of the ownership in this company to American interests. The corporate development of this situation is positively Byzantine. It is too complex for a person like myself to actually hold and understand, but I do have some things to say about it.

It was just a year ago that the White Motor Co. in the United States went into receivership. Because of the initiative of the governments of Ontario and of Canada, there were more than \$15 million in guarantees and grants funneled into this company to re-establish it here in Ontario. There is a part of the company in BC that made trucks profitably. It was split off and continues to operate. The part here in Ontario was established as a corporation with 50 per cent of its shares bought by a company called Linamar Machine Co. in Guelph. The principal is Mr. Hasenfratz—and I hope the Hansard reporter will not ask me to spell it just at this time.

A Texas investment corporation, TIC Investment Corp., with its principal, a gentleman called Mr. Georgoulis, was the American partner and with the support of the two governments, operations were resumed for the manufacture of the famous White axial-flow combine. I do not want to bad mouth other combine manufacturers—Massey-Ferguson, one of the biggest in the world, is also in Brantford—but there is no doubt the axial-flow combine developed by technology here in Ontario is, if not the best in the world, one of the best in the world. Other companies would give their right arm to have the patent rights to build it.

It is estimated that other companies which do not have such an advanced combine would have to spend up to \$30 million for all of the patent

development to develop a similar machine. I saw the machine working on my own farm last year, with the representatives of the receivers sitting in their cars watching. One of its great advantages is that its field speed can be twice that of an ordinary combine and still do a good job. The point is there is a huge, valuable patent associated with this company.

On Friday, with no warning, the workers were laid off with the explanation coming from management to the extent that there were problems with third party financing. This, of course, is of great concern to the 160 White Farm Equipment dealerships across Canada. They have an average of 10 employees. There are 1,600 people employed across Canada, a large proportion of them in Ontario, and I do business with one of the dealers just down the road from where I am.

They are very concerned about their future. They had to suffer through a receivership a year ago with all the problems about confidence that farmers would have. The farmers want to buy a machine for which the parts and service are going to be maintained. They do not want a company that is going to go out of business when they make an investment of well over \$100,000 for a combine or a tractor.

The company has been functioning. Their combines are among the best in the world and, although sales are slow because of the depressed farm economy, if we are ever going to sell machinery, these White combines are certainly going to be sold. During this past year there has been a continuation of unhealthy and unnatural corporate pressures brought upon the Canadian operation by its American shareholder.

I want to choose my words carefully, because I am well aware of the immunity granted to me as a speaker in this House by virtue of my membership here and the fact that I am speaking in this House. But when I say the pressures were unnatural, there is no doubt about it. The money available for the payroll was often withheld until hours or even minutes before the final payroll had to be met. There is no doubt the American shareholder was doing everything he could to keep the Canadian company off balance and at the same time trying to force the Canadian shareholder to sell his Canadian rights in this company to the American owner.

I do not know Mr. Hasenfratz, but he must be a good businessman because his share in White Motors, put in just a year ago, was \$2.5 million. He is now being offered \$4 million to sell out and

even I, being a Canadian nationalist, if I had an opportunity to make those kinds of dollars, would have to think about it very seriously, particularly when at the same time the stick being applied to Mr. Hasenfratz by his friend, the Texas partner, is that if he does not sell out the Texas partner will put the company into receivership. So Linamar will lose everything. Talk about a stick! Talk about a carrot! Certainly we see that the American principal in this is using everything at his command to force a sellout of the interest of this company into American, that is, into his hands.

We get to the third party finance, something that I do not understand very well, but Borg-Warner (Canada) Ltd., as an American company doing business here and a business associate of the Texas investment corporation, has in the past provided the money that permits the dealers to buy the combines and then to pay off the third party financier until they actually sell the combines—very big items, Mr. Speaker, you will understand, well over \$100,000 each, in many instances \$150,000 each.

When these problems came to the fore, I am reliably informed and have seen a letter dated February 3, 1982, the government of Canada offered \$20 million in special finance to assist in this third party finance problem. I am also informed that this proposal was vetoed by the American shareholder, once again putting cruel and unusual financial pressure on the administration in Brantford, which is almost helpless between these two principals and, of course, additional pressure on Guelph Machinery Co., which is the half-interest holder.

As a result, the administrators in Brantford last Friday just simply threw up their hands and said: "We cannot continue. We are going to close the place down." They made it clear there was nothing the administration of the company could do about it and they clearly left the implication that the problems were beyond their control and that in many respects, while you could not call them innocent bystanders, there was not very much they could do about it.

I see from your signal, Mr. Speaker, only one minute remains, but I say this to you, that the government of Ontario in supporting that kind of pressure that will result in the loss of control of this company to an American principal, who apparently has some difficulty in financing his own operations in the normal procedure, is not serving either the workers of Brantford or

Canadian industry in any useful and effective way.

4:50 p.m.

We must remember the government of Canada is into this for twice the amount of money of the government of Ontario and has offered an additional \$20 million. Surely, with the kind of co-operation that took place a year ago between Ontario and Canada, we can move towards the goal that must be in the minds of the minister, the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) and every member of this House to get that plant opened, get the 1,000 people back to work and at the same time maintain Canadian ownership and control.

I submit this is possible and, as a matter of high policy, it is essential. Anything less will in my view be inadequate in the service of the workers in this community and in the service of the industry and economy of Canada.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I rise to take part in this debate—

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The member for London South has indicated his wish to participate in the debate. Following rotation, I think I am obliged to—

Mr. Laughren: Is the debate not going this way?

The Deputy Speaker: Is that what we are doing? Was that understood by the House leaders? I was not instructed.

Mr. Nixon: It's your responsibility, Mr. Speaker. Counter-clockwise is fine as far as we are concerned.

The Deputy Speaker: If that is the case and if there are no great objections in terms of rotation, I will turn to the member for London South.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that.

Mr. Riddell: We are assuming the minister will stay for the rest of the debate.

Hon. Mr. Walker: The member may have an unwarranted assumption because I have an attendance elsewhere. By the same token, the person who moved the debate has not chosen to stay for it.

Mr. Martel: He is here. You should talk.

Mr. MacDonald: Take a look at your own cabinet.

Mr. Wildman: He's in the lobby.

Hon. Mr. Walker: He may be here but he is not in the room. Given that the last member

spent the time on a matter different from the motion itself, I want to say the auto industry does sit at the centre of this country's manufacturing economy.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The motion deals with the disruption, with the unemployment of people in industry associated with the auto industry.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I would like to bring to the attention of the member for London South that I listened closely to the comments of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk and that thought crossed my mind but, thinking in terms of the ambience of the resolution before the House, I did not call him to order on the basis that I did think his remarks fell within the resolution. You may continue.

Hon. Mr. Walker: I think all of us were just being generous, Mr. Speaker, and that is fine.

Mr. Mancini: That is a cheap shot at the chair.

Hon. Mr. Walker: No, it is not meant to be.

Mr. Mancini: Yes-man to the government.

Hon. Mr. Walker: The master of cheap shots is sitting in the member's chair at the moment.

The Deputy Speaker: Continue with the debate.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Automotive products and the automotive industry generally represent the single largest consumer expenditure in our province and it is extremely important in terms of the largest single item of trade between Canada and the United States. The health of that industry is crucial and important to the provincial and national economy. That goes without saying and I think it has been echoed by members here today. The health of that industry is the basis of our own support for the Canadian automotive industry.

In the past, Ontario government initiatives have focused on support in five individual areas: first, technological upgrading; second, support in terms of investment; third, short-term fiscal stimulus; fourth, industrial co-operation and overseas investment; and fifth, advocacy.

In terms of technological upgrading, I think our record on the research and development centre at Chrysler was the essence of our involvement there. The automotive parts technology centre that was recently announced in Niagara and the grants to small businesses that have been established would clearly indicate to

many in the automotive industry our intention to establish very strong technological upgrading to attempt to attack the problem as best we can, recognizing that it is an immense problem. This problem is North America-wide and has ramifications that go far beyond the question of Japanese imports to a lot of other issues in terms of fuel economy, size of the machines and the like, not to mention automotive trade.

At the moment we are concentrating our attention directly on the area of imports of Japanese vehicles where we hope our advocacy with the federal government, because it is the one that is carrying the entire load on this, is getting it to the point of advocating and arguing the position we have advocated for a long time. We now feel they have advanced our position. That was not entirely the case until the Honourable Mr. Lumley's visit to Japan as recently as two weeks ago. We are quite content that, in Japan, Mr. Lumley has been able to present the arguments as we saw them.

Indeed, at the conference of first ministers back in February, it was the Premier who insisted on having a rather important meeting on the whole question. This was the first meeting that had been brought together in terms of the very issue of the imports. That meeting, between our Premier, Mr. Lumley, Mr. Gray, the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) and myself took place back at the end of February and it was agreed that there would be a follow-up meeting early in March, and that did happen.

I have to tell the members of this House that we went to that particular meeting entirely in concert with the position advanced by the United Auto Workers, a position advanced by the auto parts manufacturers and by the automobile manufacturers, all of us and the Ontario government having precisely the same position. That had an effect on the federal government and that particular effect was translated in terms of the position ultimately taken by Mr. Lumley in his visit to Japan.

That chapter has perhaps closed with the return of Mr. Lumley from Japan, having received the benefit of the Japanese answer. However, the book has not yet been closed and there will be a number of things unfolding in that entire matter. The honourable members will see that in the weeks ahead the positions taken will strongly reflect the positions of the Ontario government. We are in concert with the federal government, with the United Auto

Workers, with the automobile parts manufacturers and the auto manufacturers.

All of us have the same position and that is rather unique, generally speaking, given the range and spectrum normally existing in the politics of those various organizations. As the Premier would say, we are all singing from the same hymn book on the question. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that it will have an effect. I think as we attack the issue of Japanese imports we will see some solution to the problem ultimately forthcoming.

Also, there are other matters that we have been directly involved in. One only needs to go over a number of the Ontario Development Corp. loans to automobile manufacturers, to automobile parts manufacturers, our support of the Ford Essex V6 engine plant under the employment development fund, an investment that saw some 2,000 jobs created. This province put in some \$533 million.

In terms of joint ventures, a matter the honourable members in the New Democratic Party have raised, joint ventures have been very much a part of our way. Indeed, there have been a number of discussions along that line. As well, we have encouraged companies like Volkswagen to locate in Ontario. With some incentive, they located that plant in Ontario and that provides some 500 jobs to the people who live in the constituencies of our colleagues from the Barrie area.

In addition to that, in the ensuing months all kinds of short-term fiscal stimuli have occurred. Back in February of 1980, there was a one-month reprieve of the retail sales tax rebate on passenger cars. That helped then, was useful then and was needed then. For more than seven months, from November 13, 1980, to June 30, 1981, the retail sales tax rebate scheme was on for light trucks and vans. That had an effect and it resulted in more employment than would otherwise be the case.

In November of last year, there was a one-month sales tax rebate that had the effect of clearing the 1980 inventories and probably saved all kinds of little automobile industries all over the province.

Mr. Nixon: I understand there are a few Malibus around you can get.

Hon. Mr. Walker: I would not be a bit surprised.

We have pursued all kinds of international sourcing in Canada, industrial co-operation and overseas investments as well. In terms of the advocacy, we have talked to our federal coun-

terparts about the automobile agreement. We have argued with them on the ultimate approach the auto pact must take. We have argued flexibility on the production to sales ratios in return for increased Canadian value added and intercorporate trade balance.

5 p.m.

One of the members across the way made a comment in reference to the figure of 85 per cent and asked, "So why not 100 per cent?" The 85 per cent figure was a compromise figure that was arrived at by the UAW, the auto parts manufacturers and the automobile manufacturers. That is how that figure was arrived at. There was nothing at all strange for my predecessor to back off the previous figure of 100 per cent to the agreed-upon figure of 85 per cent.

There have been those meetings that I talked about at some length. I have told the members what transpired with respect to those meetings. Mr. Lumley has taken our position as it relates to the Japanese issue. I discussed that situation with Mr. Lumley as recently as a week ago. I am satisfied that matter is progressing and properly unfolding, if I may borrow that word from another politician.

The consensus with the Japanese is absolutely necessary. In the short term, the number of vehicles exported from Japan to Canada must be reduced so that the North American manufacturers will have time to retool domestic capacity. In the long run, domestic production must represent a higher value for the domestic market.

The Deputy Speaker: The minister's time has expired.

Hon. Mr. Walker: The Canadian automotive industry is important to this government. Regardless of any past differences we may have had with the federal government, I can say that we have a united front at the moment. We are proceeding with that. We are trying to resolve a problem as it relates to the automobile industry that has beset not just this province but every single province in Canada and that affects the entire North American area.

I am glad to hear that the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) feels that we have taken the high road on this—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The minister's time is up.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to rise and speak on this matter and to have the opportunity, no matter where we come from in this

province or what riding we represent, to speak about the auto industry in our area.

Although I agree almost totally with the remarks made by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) in his speech, I regret that he prefaced it by remarks implying that somehow or other this resolution was drafted to exclude places like Brantford. That is not the case at all. If he had read it, he would have realized that after talking about Oshawa and Windsor it said, "... and other layoffs in the automotive sector around the province." In any event, I notice it did not impede him from speaking about the situation there.

The situation in my area, although the total numbers unemployed are smaller than they are in Windsor, Oshawa and other areas, nevertheless is rather serious. General Motors is not in as serious a situation as it is in the other two places, but the TRW plant in St. Catharines has had substantial layoffs of workers with as much as eight or 10 years' seniority. In my area, the Hayes-Dana plant, which is in Thorold and has almost all of its employment there, is down from a peak of 2,210 employees in 1979 to 945 at present, which means 60 per cent of the employees of that plant are laid off. That is serious in a small city of the size of Thorold.

I am glad to speak in this debate, not just from the point of view of my own area but also because of the general impact on society and because of the numbers of people who are being seriously hurt by the disastrous situation in the auto industry.

I sometimes think that one of the reasons those people across the hall do not take more dramatic action on these problems is simply that they, their families and their friends are buffered enough from it that they do not realize the serious situation and the people who are being hurt by being thrown out of work.

There is one general statement that should and can be made with validity regarding this situation: the policies of both the Liberal federal government and the Conservative provincial government have been abject failures. It would be difficult to envisage a much worse situation than we have in the auto industry here at present.

The Premier said today that we in the opposition do not seem to recognize what his government has done for the stabilization of the auto industry. The minister who was speaking a few moments ago and who has just left—apparently he is not interested in the debate

taking place here—made the comment that the United States is worse than Canada.

Considering the sales of automobiles in Canada over the past few years, the United States is not worse than Canada. I suggest Canada has the worst situation of any country in the world with regard to the auto manufacturing industry at present. It is perhaps no accident that it is taking place in countries like Canada and the United States, which is the second worst, where they have this unqualified devotion to private enterprise and the governments opting out of any decisions in the major economic areas.

My colleague talked about the offshore imports. We in this party recognize the seriousness of that and of the auto trade deficit. I think we have to recognize that only about one third of it is due to that. The other two thirds is due to the auto trade pact, where we have a deficit of more than \$2 billion.

Another factor in this serious situation is the general economy in this province and in this nation. Far fewer cars are being bought than would be the case if there were full employment and a healthy economy, particularly in the field of interest rates.

Perhaps interest rates more than any other single factor have reduced the sales of automobiles. Yet we have governments in Ottawa and here which do not believe in intervening in those high interest rates. The Treasurer now says the polls have shown that the public would generally like to see lower interest rates.

We have both the Treasurer and the Premier saying the interest rates now should be lower. But they never go so far as to say they should be lowered by direct intervention of the federal government to force the Bank of Canada rates down. That is the only way we will get them down and get them down quickly. They leave those decisions to the free enterprise sector of our economy, and we are paying the price for it now.

It would not make a bit of difference whether one had the Liberal Party in power here and the Conservative Party in power in Ottawa. Their philosophy, their beliefs and their policies are so close to one another that we would be in exactly the same situation as we are in here today. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, there would be no difference.

I have before me a statement by Patrick Lavelle, who is president of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association of Canada. The main thrust of what they are asking for is government intervention. This organization of

the parts manufacturers—the big free enterprisers—is asking for government intervention in four ways to resolve this problem here in this nation; and our governments, whether here or in Ottawa, are not prepared to take that kind of intervention.

My colleague the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) spoke about Autocan and the need to have a crown corporation for government to do some planning and to get involved in this whole matter. I am not going to repeat what he said, but I want to say that proposal found pretty substantial acceptance across this province. I have a clipping here from the Windsor Star in which they applauded the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) for the speech he made in Windsor proposing the setting up of Autocan.

He proposed in his speech that we get involved in the auto industry and make the diesel motors in Windsor. This editorial, dated February 26, 1981, states:

"While the other two parties continue to rehash old disagreements, Ontario NDP leader Michael Cassidy has brought out the first genuinely new idea of the campaign. Cassidy's idea of forming a provincial parallel to Petro-Canada in the automotive field, which was first made public in Windsor, should have great political appeal at a time when Petro-Canada is much in the news and the automotive industry is in the doldrums.

"But there is more to Cassidy's plan than throwing out a catchy slogan coupled with an idea in vague general terms. He did not explain all the details, but what he did say shows that he has a good grasp of the automotive industry and its problems. He has put a good deal of thought and imagination into the subject."

5:10 p.m.

Then it goes on to say: "What is new in Cassidy's idea is a government corporation to bring two companies together and to get things started. Autocan might provide the incentive and the support to get the project under way. It might work. It might get idle plants into operation and open new opportunities to get the Canadian parts sector moving. It is at least a new idea, worthy of expansion and study. Autocan should not be dismissed as a routine campaign problem." That was a lead editorial from the Windsor Star.

Unless the kind of proposal that has been put forward by the NDP is adopted, unless there is the kind of intervention that we advocate, unless we get an overall handle on the auto industry in this province, there is not going to be

any immediate solution to this problem and perhaps no long-term solution.

It is time that governments in this province and this nation realized, as they have done throughout the rest of the world, that governments have to get involved, that they have to give direction and that they have to put the interests of the workers of the provinces and the nation ahead of the manufacturers for once.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I join in this debate as a representative of a municipality that has been very badly hit by layoffs in the automotive industry, particularly in those smaller industries that are associated with auto parts manufacturing.

We in St. Catharines have been fortunate to a certain extent that in our community the major employer has been General Motors, which up until recently, although hit by layoffs, has been the strongest of the so-called Big Three in terms of employment.

However, over a period of time, and most recently at a critical stage, we have seen a problem arising with mass layoffs. It is a problem affecting three big companies: TRW, which as the member for Welland-Thorold has mentioned is in auto parts manufacturing, Hayes-Dana and General Motors.

Many of the people who live on the street on which I live are auto workers—probably the majority of them are auto workers—and they are feeling the pinch of temporary layoffs and in some cases indefinite layoffs which are of a longer term.

We see the human tragedy of people who are now losing their homes because of the combination of high interest rates involved with their mortgages and the fact that they do not have a job.

Second, we see people who are unable to pay their property taxes and meet their other financial commitments, and this is having a fairly devastating effect on the community in that the local municipality is going to have to look elsewhere for funds.

In addition, the various businesses that do not have people making purchases, or with people unable to meet their financial commitments, are feeling a real pinch at this time.

It is not only the auto workers themselves who are affected by this tragedy; it is the entire community in our case, and ultimately the province and the country, that is affected by the massive layoffs in the automotive industry.

As members of the provincial Legislature, we do have a role to play. I have had the opportu-

nity to discuss this matter and to ask questions of the minister in this House, as other members who are very concerned have done, in terms of the throne debate, the budget debate and debates such as this emergency debate on a specific problem.

I have had the opportunity to meet with the union officials of the United Automobile Workers in the city of St. Catharines. They have had public forums and they have had more limited meetings with individual members to discuss the real problems being faced by their employees within the jurisdiction of the United Auto Workers, and it has been a story of human tragedy.

I have had the opportunity, as other members from the Niagara Peninsula have had, both federal and provincial, and later the municipal members, to meet representatives of the auto parts manufacturers and their suppliers. I can recall a meeting on January 25, 1982, which discussed this situation; the general theme was, "You Auto Care."

We also had in St. Catharines, on the morning of February 19, in front of General Motors, a demonstration put on by the United Auto Workers, which invited the area political representatives to be present. I recall being present on that occasion to discuss with the people on the demonstration picket line the real problems facing the automotive industry and some of the solutions they had. I was there to indicate my sympathy with their situation and the fact that I was prepared to do anything possible from a provincial representative's point of view to assist them.

One of the real problems we face in this country and to a certain extent in the province is that people such as the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) and the members from Windsor and Oakville and I—in other words, those of us who represent the automotive centres—know the problem on a firsthand basis; and our people in our communities know the problem, even those who are not directly employed in the automotive industry.

Nevertheless, we have a job to do as legislators to encourage others to become involved in solutions to this problem. I see the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) here, for instance, and very few people within his riding would be directly affected by a downturn in the automotive industry.

It seems to me, as a representative from an auto centre, and to others in the same situation, that we have to bring before members such as

the member for Nipissing or the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt), or members from other areas that are not directly affected by the auto industry, what the real problem is and encourage them to help us find a solution.

It becomes even a greater problem when talking to people from western Canada who might have somewhat less sympathy than those of us in this province who recognize the importance of the auto industry and the devastating effects of a downturn.

We have a role to play in educating others to the problem and encouraging them to support us in the solutions we recommend. Some of those solutions, of course, come at the federal level and I am happy that, generally speaking, we in this House have supported some of those solutions.

For instance, at this meeting, "You Auto Care," the political representatives who were there, and the representatives from the unions and companies, looked at a few possible short-term and some longer-term solutions to the problem, at least as relating to auto parts manufacturing.

In terms of the recommendations made, they talked about: (1) the negotiation of a new automotive products arrangement with the United States which must provide for a level of Canadian value added of not less than 85 per cent; (2) in the short term, a strict limit on foreign vehicle imports to afford our North American industry some breathing room, and (3) the negotiation of agreements with all other foreign vehicle producers, such as the Japanese and the Europeans, that require them to achieve a Canadian value added level of 85 per cent over a limited period of time.

Some of these are for the short term, but our industry does require a breathing space to be able to come up with some of the solutions that will be longer term. At present, we are facing what I consider to be unfair competition, most particularly from Japan in this case, which is noted for not allowing too much penetration of its own market.

In advancing these policies on a short-term basis, we are certainly not breaking new ground. Many other countries within the European Economic Community, for instance, and the Asian economic unit are prepared to implement these policies, and I think that we in this country certainly would be justified in doing that. We would not be initiating a new trade war. We simply would be attempting to play by the rules as they realistically exist at present.

But the solution does not lie only at the federal level. The provincial budget that was brought in the last time included increases in various taxes, most particularly, as discussed earlier by the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid), the tax known as the ad valorem tax on gas, which increases the take for the provincial government considerably and takes more money that could potentially be spent on consumer items such as automobiles out of the pockets of the people of Ontario. There were also increases in the provincial income tax in the last provincial budget—and everybody forgets about that; we all talk about the federal budget, forgetting the provincial budget where there were those increases—as well as the hotel tax coming back on, the Ontario health insurance plan premiums going up and so on. When I see these things, all of them seem to restrict the potential for growth in consumer spending.

5:20 p.m.

What we need at the present time at the provincial level is a budget that will encourage consumer spending and get the economy going again so that, in the long term, more people will be paying more taxes and we will have increased revenues for the government. It may appear in the short term to be an inflationary type of budget that is advocated, but in the long term we will find it will be beneficial to the Ontario economy.

In those communities that are adversely affected in a strong way—I think of Oshawa, with the large layoffs, as well as Windsor, St. Catharines, Oakville and other areas—there is going to be a tremendous drain on the local taxpayers in terms of people being on unemployment and needing other social services, because there are people going on welfare when they go off unemployment. The provincial government could provide some special assistance to those communities to allow them to adjust on a short-term basis to the fact that we have this problem with the automotive industry.

I encourage all members of this Legislature to participate in encouraging our Treasurer to take the steps I have advocated. He can certainly count on the support of those of us who represent automotive communities to encourage the federal government to play the role I have advocated, the role we feel it has to play in the future of the automotive industry.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, like all members in the House, I am deeply concerned about the situation in Oshawa and Windsor

referred to in the motion under debate. These are two further examples of the troubling persistence of unemployment in this country, a matter that was fully debated in this House in an emergency debate and motion on March 11.

The motion asserts that this government has failed to introduce programs to begin to address this very compelling problem. That assertion is not correct, and in a moment I will turn to the measures we have taken to alleviate the effects of events such as the ones referred to in the motion.

Before doing so, however, I would like to reiterate the proposition that whether we like it or not—and I know members opposite continue to argue that we attempt to shift the blame to the federal government, and I do not take any pleasure whatsoever in raising that point—the fact is that in our national economy the major opportunities for bringing about economic recovery lie with the federal government.

It is the federal government that has the responsibility for macroeconomic policy. It is the federal government and the central bank that have responsibility for the restrictive monetary policy now being pursued that is contributing to the decline of job opportunities in this province and across the country. It is the Bank of Canada's interest rate policy that is causing the rise in business failures, with the human hardship that entails for the employees who are thrown out of work.

In February, the Premier went to Ottawa, met the Prime Minister and the other Premiers and laid before that meeting of first ministers a definite blueprint for economic recovery.

He dealt with ways in which the climate of confidence could be restored in this country. He made definite proposals as to the ways in which small business creation and development could be encouraged. He spoke about the definite steps that could and should be taken to enhance trade and export opportunities.

He expressed our government's views as to the ways in which investment can be encouraged and increased. Not least important, he advanced proposals for developing our most precious commodity, our human resources.

I do not propose to repeat those very definite recommendations, some 40 in all, which were outlined in detail by the Premier at the Ottawa conference. The fact of the matter is that the Premier's call for action was not heeded. Instead, the federal government persists in policies that fight inflation on the backs of our

work force. The view persists that to fight inflation one must induce a recession.

We have argued that this policy of despair and defeat is not acceptable and that there are increasing signs that the vast majority of this province, and indeed Canada as a whole, agrees wholeheartedly.

Our pool of natural and human resources is the envy of the western world and yet, month by month, figures pile up to show that Canada continues to lose ground. As for Ontario, our level of unemployment is unacceptably high. However, I point out that in a relative sense, contrary to popular misconception, we are doing marginally better than the country as a whole.

The unemployment rate for Ontario dropped from 6.9 per cent in 1980 to 6.6 per cent in 1981, and the number of unemployed dropped overall by 5,000. By comparison, the unemployment rate for Canada as a whole went from 7.5 per cent in 1980 to 7.6 per cent in 1981.

Although the February figures for Ontario show a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 7.6 per cent this is still lower than all provinces other than the three Prairie provinces.

I want to emphasize that I take no particular comfort from these figures, but I cite them so we can examine the problem in the proper national perspective.

What are we doing in Ontario to alleviate the situation? First, we are continuing to urge the federal government to abandon its present policies, which I have indicated are not working. The fact that the response has been negative to date will not prevent us from continuing to press for change.

This government is taking a leading role, together with the automotive employers and the United Auto Workers, in urging the federal government to take steps to restore the health of the automobile and automotive parts manufacturing industries.

The automobile industry is the linchpin of the Ontario manufacturing sector, accounting directly or indirectly for one in every six jobs in that sector. We, along with the manufacturers and the UAW, have urged the federal government to pursue trade and other policy initiatives to put the industry on a sound footing once again.

So far, regrettably, the federal Minister of State (Trade) has not achieved success in his negotiations with the Japanese concerning the difficult question of imports. Renewed efforts must be made in this regard and if members

listened to my colleague the Minister of Industry and Trade a few moments ago, he did hint there is progress being made.

In that respect, Ontario will continue to play a positive role, in collaboration with the federal government and the industry, to attempt to ensure that this vital industry is not subject to unfair treatment in the North American and world markets.

In this joint endeavour, I am reassured that the two levels of government, along with management and labour, share a common goal and that Ontario has played a key role in mobilizing this joint effort.

As to the programs in my ministry, we have taken steps which I believe put this province ahead of most other jurisdictions in North America.

Last year, the Employment Standards Act was amended to provide for severance pay in the event of plant closures. A special program to serve the needs of those affected by plant closures was established by the ministry under the leadership of Bob Joyce, an experienced and respected labour relations consultant.

As a result of Mr. Joyce's efforts and through recently enriched funding for this program, we have been able to make special counselling and training services available to increased numbers of laid-off employees.

Our participation in federal-provincial manpower adjustment committees has become more active. Incidentally, I have had some critical things to say about the federal government, but I must say in fairness that in this respect they have been most co-operative.

We have intensified our collaborative efforts with the ministries of Industry and Trade and Colleges and Universities to ensure there is full access to all government programs.

In addition, members will recall that the government introduced revisions to the Pension Benefits Act to protect employees' pension benefits in case of plant closures and to provide the employees with options as to how the funds will be applied.

Members are aware of the federal industry-labour adjustment program, which provides for the designation of specific communities and industries particularly hard hit by the economic recession.

Largely as a result of the timely intervention of my predecessor, who now is the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie), the federal Minister of Employment and Immigration was persuaded before Christmas to

designate Brantford as an eligible community under this program.

Thus, employees in Brantford as well as employees in Chatham and Windsor who meet the eligibility requirements of the federal program are, or will be, entitled to certain defined benefits including increased mobility grants, portable wage subsidies, early retirement benefit and special training opportunities.

I am quite prepared, in the light of more recent developments, to urge the federal minister to examine the possibility of designating other communities as well. It may well be that Oshawa is a prime candidate, although I hope that the situation in that community brought about by certain unfortunate international developments will be short-lived and that the employment at General Motors soon will be restored to previous levels. However, I will pursue the matter aggressively with Mr. Axworthy without delay.

In conclusion, I believe that despite our difficulties, this province has the capacity and determination to overcome them. The Premier has given his blueprint. We have outlined in the throne speech certain measures we propose to take in the coming months. The people of this province have a government that is sensitive to their needs and that will continue to do everything in its power to address them.

5:30 p.m.

As Minister of Labour and, more particularly, as a member from a northern community which is heavily industrialized and potentially at least may be subject to the same unpredictable employment problems as Oshawa, Windsor and other communities, I have a deep commitment to pressing for policies that will ensure we weather this period and emerge as a province characterized by growth and prosperity.

Mr. Breagh: I listened to the debate this afternoon, both in the House and on the loudspeakers in the lobby, and it strikes me there is some consensus forming. As we look around now, perhaps part of the problem is that the ministers of the crown are rather badly represented in that only one of them is here.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: All day; I have been here all day.

Mr. Breagh: That is fine. The minister has been here all day. He wins the attendance prize. He is the best cabinet minister here because he is the only one here. But he should not get carried away. One would have thought that

perhaps the Treasurer would have a little something to say.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: On a point of order: My comment a moment ago may have sounded a little smart-alecky; it was not intended as that. I came here today with the full intention of listening to all the comments made by all the members and to stay until six o'clock. I was not trying to be a hero or anything else.

Mr. T. P. Reid: What about some of the minister's colleagues?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I was just coming to that. I am disappointed that more members from all parties are not in attendance. Thank you.

Mr. Breagh: Let me show the House how quickly that consensus is forming here. That is precisely the point. We have had opportunities on a number of occasions to debate portions of the problems related to the auto industry, to my community, to Windsor, St. Thomas and a number of other automotive communities. What I am trying to get this afternoon is not a resolution of the problem; that obviously is not going to be possible. But there are component parts to this and there are players on the scene who I hope will read Hansard. I hope they are listening to the loudspeakers in their own offices so they can follow some of the things people have had to say today.

I am sure the Treasurer, whose economy depends so heavily on the automotive sector, is interested in what is going on here. I am sure the Premier is interested. The fact that he is not here this afternoon and has not participated in the debate may simply mean that at some future time he will want to and that is the purpose of the debate this afternoon.

I want to put a couple of other focal points together as well. One is to recognize that this is not just a debate between two ideas or three political parties or different communities within Ontario. We are talking about the economy of this province, plain and simple. Complicated though it might be, it comes back to that one fundamental fact.

We are also talking about a number of things that have to do with different levels of government trying to respond. It is difficult to put together actions that require initiatives by municipalities, support by provinces and funds in part by the federal government. That takes a long time. It seems to be an almost impossible process from time to time.

I am trying to get members to pay some attention to the fact that because of the state of

the auto industry, that process will have to be activated eventually, after much kicking and screaming. It will have to go much faster, much smoother and much more effectively than it has ever done before in the history of Ontario or even in the history of Canada. The situation now is serious enough that the government will finally have to put together a co-ordinated effort.

I also want to say that it is no longer good enough, not by a long shot, for Ontario to say it is somebody else's primary responsibility to develop, to protect and to extend the automotive industry. It may be true—I believe it is—that it is essentially a problem for which the federal government can have the largest share of responsibility. But it should also be clear they are not going to do a hell of a lot and that inevitable fact has to be recognized.

The government has my condolences. If they want to fed bash, if they want to call federal ministers names, that is fine, but the bottom line is that the automotive sector is the economy of this province. Calling people names and saying they have not done their jobs properly may be true and it may be fun, but it is not going to do anything for the economy of Ontario. There is a need, too, to say that whether it is our prime responsibility or not we now have to take the Ontario government into this field.

I want to deal with a couple of other things. Other members have put out their party programs and read the statistics into the record and so on. That has to be done but I want to deal with a couple of other aspects of it. I would like some of the foolishness of the debate around this to cease. I listened to the Premier this afternoon and I tried to get him to give a straight answer to a question.

I suppose I should have known better but his first response was, "You and the NDP want to nationalize everything." This was about five minutes after he had said how proud he was to participate in a function in his own riding where the French Socialist government has a nationalized car industry which has come into Brampton, Ontario, and sought to do something positive for American Motors.

Well, kiddies, you can't stand on the street and call somebody else names one minute and then the next minute recognize that if it were not for a government in another country participating in the auto industry in its own country and then extrapolating that to Brampton, Ontario, American Motors would not be much in Brampton. Stop the malarkey around the edges.

I listened to the Minister of Industry and Trade do the same kind of thing and talk about joint ventures. We are not opposed to joint ventures. We think they are a good idea. We have opposed on occasion some decisions about priorities or about how the government should do that when we thought it was not quite the proper thing to do, but it does not do any of us any good. More important, it does nothing for Joe McCullough or anybody else who is going to be out of work after April 12 in Oshawa or the people in Windsor, St. Thomas, St. Catharines or anywhere else to have this kind of exchange be all that happens.

I have no qualms about the Minister of Labour calling me names or the Premier making little jokes about it. That is par for the day in here. There is nothing wrong with that. That is part of the political process. What is wrong is when that is the only level of—

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: On a point of privilege. Mr. Speaker: I do not recall calling the member any names.

Mr. Breagh: I did not say you called me names. If you would sit down and let us continue our debate instead of defending your honour, we might—

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I'm not defending my honour.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Consens): The member for Sault Ste. Marie has the floor on a point of privilege.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am not defending my honour, Mr. Speaker. I am merely asking for a clarification of what he means by calling him names. I do not recall calling him any names.

Mr. Breagh: I really do apologize if I in any manner offended the sensitivities of the minister. Is that good enough for him?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I hate to be persistent on this point. Any time he wants he can make any comments about me or my sensitivity. That is his privilege and I would not object to it on any occasion. I thought I heard him say, and Hansard perhaps will prove me correct, that he had been called names by the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Breagh: No; I have been called names by a lot of good people but not by you.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member has lodged his point of privilege. It has been listened to.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, perhaps on occasion we are oversensitive or whatever you might want to call it.

The point I am trying to make in all this is that, while the politicians do the yelling and screaming back and forth, it is the people, the workers, who suffer. There are those who will look at layoffs of the size and proportion announced for Oshawa and say: "Nothing much will happen. Doesn't the United Auto Workers, that big, powerful trade union, have a SUB fund?"

Perhaps they do not realize that better than half the people who will be laid off will not get a chance to draw on that supplementary unemployment benefits fund at all. Some of them will not even get any unemployment insurance benefits because they have not had enough work in recent years to draw on that. Many of them are not in a position to be retrained, so even if there were the greatest retraining program in the world, it would be of virtually no use to them.

What I am urging the members to get at is the truth of the whole thing. Whether it is primarily a provincial responsibility or not, the government has to take some initiative. Whether they want to call it joint ventures, nationalization or whatever language they want to use, I am urging them to do it. Whatever response they want to make, I am urging them to do that as well.

5:40 p.m.

I would caution all members here that there is no great secret about the kinds of things that must be done. That has been before this Legislature, both in the House and in committee—

The Acting Speaker: The member has one minute.

Mr. Breaugh: —and we know the kinds of things that must take place. We know that in a city like Oshawa there is going to be a dramatic impact on the city's budget itself, and on the people. I am not anticipating we are going to solve a great deal this afternoon, but I do hope the members of the Legislature have had an afternoon of debate that points out to them that this is an emergency. While we will not deal with the emergency this afternoon, we have decided collectively that is what it is. It requires a response, and not a rhetorical response. It does require money; it does require programs. That is exactly what ought to happen in the remainder of this session, the government responding legislatively, financially and in terms of commitment to solve what is, without question, a

crisis in the economy of this province, and a crisis in real and human terms.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I rise to join in this debate because I, too, come from an automotive town. As a matter of fact, prior to the First World War, when the city of Kitchener was known as Berlin, one of the first automobiles that was ever assembled in Ontario, if not in Canada, was built in Berlin.

Mr. Newman: It's still running.

Mr. Sweeney: And I hear some of them are still running. The point, however, continues today that Kitchener is still very much an automotive town. As a matter of fact, up until a year ago, we had the largest single industry in Kitchener, the Budd automotive company, which made frames for many North American cars. Recently, of course, that industry has had to reduce its labour force considerably. As a matter of fact, in 1979, Budd had a labour force in excess of 3,000, something like 3,140 people to be exact. As of today, that figure is down to something like 760. I need not tell anyone in the House this is a significant decrease.

It is also interesting to note that the chamber of commerce in Kitchener, in conjunction with the various automotive industries, the parts manufacturers, in particular, held a seminar a couple of weeks ago which about 40 people attended. One of the points that was brought up was the serious social, human and economic impact on a community such as mine when so many people are laid off by a single industry. That is not the only one. We have Lear Siegler Industries, for example, in my riding that makes seats and various other parts. We have two of the largest tire manufacturers, Uniroyal and Goodrich, which have an impact in this particular area. We have literally hundreds of small parts manufacturers in the Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge area that are being affected by the automotive downturn.

That makes us stop and ask a question. The figure has been quoted by a number of previous speakers, that one in six people in this province is somehow associated with the automotive industry. I guess we have to ask ourselves somewhere along the line how we ever got to the point where such a large segment of the working population of any jurisdiction happened to get tied up with a single industry. Perhaps that is part of the overall question we have to ask ourselves. We are not going to deal with that, as the previous speaker said, this afternoon, but it is something we certainly have to take a look at.

I also want to participate in this debate this afternoon because, in the previous five or six months, I have had a chance to criss-cross Ontario. I saw the human face of this problem on a number of occasions. As a matter of fact, one evening when we were in St. Thomas, where the Ford Talbotville plant is located, where many of the workers from that plant live, I met a number of those workers. They told me that the next morning they were going to form a human chain across Highway 401 to dramatize the very serious problems they were facing in their community, the very serious human and economic problems they were facing.

I see that same thing in my own community. It is not just a case of a man or a woman being out of work, it is all the things that go with that. It is the loss of dignity, the loss of pride, the loss of hope. It is the impact on the family, the impact on the relationship between a husband and his wife; it is the impact between a father and his children. It is the impact on those children when they have to go to school. It is the impact on the whole social family structure. That is something, surely, we have to consider.

We are not talking just of an economic situation, as deeply serious as that is. The chamber of commerce in Kitchener has estimated that the layoff of more than 2,000 people from Budd automotive alone has taken out of our community something like \$100 million, if one takes into consideration all the spinoff jobs that are associated with it. That is a significant impact on one community from just one of the many industries in that community. So there is very much an economic impact. But the social impact and the human impact are just as serious if not more so. I would hope my colleagues in this Legislature, when we look at some of the things that are going to have to be done, will take those factors into consideration as well.

We know what the problems are. We know that in an economy that is turned down, cars are priced beyond the reach of too many people. We know that the high interest rates are forcing people to hold on to the cars they now have where they might have purchased a new one. We know the import problem; we know the Japanese have increased their share of our market from something like three or four per cent to 23 or 24 per cent. That is a significant increase.

We know, for example, that back in 1966 Canada supplied 75 per cent of all of the car automotive parts that were imported by the United States. And Japan at that time supplied

only four per cent. In the United States' market today Canada supplies only 35 per cent. It used to supply 75 per cent; now it supplies only 35 per cent. Japan, on the other hand, has increased from four per cent to 32 per cent.

When we also keep in mind that the American market is a shrinking market, of course, what we have to recognize is that we have a smaller slice of a smaller market. It is no wonder we have a problem, a serious problem.

The other part of the problem is the auto pact between Canada and the United States. Back in 1965 when this pact was negotiated it looked like a good deal. Everyone felt there was going to be fairness, there was going to be a sharing, there was going to be a distribution of the sales and the net value of the entire North American auto industry. It has not worked out that way.

As far as assembled cars, or assembled automotive units are concerned, Canada has done well. Where Canada has done very poorly—and when we talk of the automotive industry and we talk of Canada, we are talking primarily of Ontario; not exclusively but primarily. In that part of the deal, Canada now has a net debit of \$35 billion over that period of time. And when one nets the two of them out, the assembly and the parts, we have a net debit of something like \$15 billion or \$16 billion.

That contract must be negotiated. It has to be negotiated. At some time in the very near future, if we are not going to be able to deal with that auto pact, if we are not going to be able to negotiate it on more favourable terms, then Canada, and particularly Ontario, is going to have to look at some form of Canadianization of the automotive industry here. If other jurisdictions can do that type of thing, if other European countries with populations smaller than ours can do it, then we have to consider it seriously. I know all the ramifications of that but it is something we certainly have to take a look at.

The third reason I want to speak to this, Mr. Speaker, is because of the future. We know that the technology in the automotive industry must change. It has now been pretty well agreed by the automotive unions themselves, by the automotive industry and by all levels of government that approximately 25 per cent of automotive jobs are lost permanently. They will never come back. The industry is going to change in such a way that those people will not be needed in the same way, so there has got to be some difference.

5:50 p.m.

A few months ago in this very chamber I spoke to the Treasurer in terms of funding an innovative retraining program. At that time I asked him to consult with his colleague the Minister of Labour, his colleague the Minister of Industry and Tourism and his colleague the Minister of Education, Colleges and Universities, to develop jointly an innovative retraining program for these workers who will never be able to go back to those jobs.

If we are going to move into robotics as far as assembling automotive units in this province is concerned, who is going to build them? Do we have the trained people to build them? Who is going to design them? Do we have the trained people to design them? Who is going to maintain them? Do we have the trained people to maintain them and repair them? At this point I say we do not. What we are going to be facing is the same thing we faced in so many other areas of industry in this province. We wait until the problem arrives and then we say we do not have the skilled workers and we are going to have to import them. For God's sake, let us not make that mistake again.

Mr. Gillies: I feel that this debate this afternoon has been very productive and I would like to offer my own congratulations to the member for Oshawa for precipitating it. The tone of the debate has been very high indeed and I hope it will continue. There have been a lot of disparate but very productive points of view conveyed.

I would like to spend a moment or two initially on the situation of White Farm Equipment, as it was debated earlier and was brought up by my friend the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk. Early in the week I became convinced that as the negotiations developed, one or the other of the partners in White Farm Equipment would emerge the victor in control of that company, but I had very little hope that the partnership would survive the exercise that we have been through in the past week.

I was shocked, as I am sure my colleague was, when on Friday the company announced the layoff of not 750 workers, as I think has been said once or twice, but 750 hourly paid workers and a further 185 salaried workers, a total of almost 1,000 people. They were told on Friday that they would not be able to report for work on Monday. It sent shock waves through my community.

Members would be aware of the problems we have had in the last year with Massey-Ferguson. All but about 1,000 of the Massey workers are

back to work now, but with the current climate, as has been pointed out by many speakers, with high interest rates and market conditions being what they are, I have been left wondering just how long the bulk of those Massey workers will be back at work.

On top of this, the second largest employer in my riding suddenly seems to be in very serious trouble indeed. As the management of White Farm Equipment put it, they were forced to suspend production not because of market conditions, not because they were not holding their share of the market and selling their products, which they are, but because of financial constraints being put on the management of the company by, as my friend alluded to earlier, the third party financier. I have had one heck of a lot of workers in my riding calling my office who really did not care about the ins and outs of third party finance; what they wanted to know was whether they still had jobs.

It would appear they do. I cannot say in all honesty that I am entirely happy with the outcome of this matter. I would have preferred that the ownership of the company remain in Canadian hands, and in the long run I would hope and think that may still be a reasonable expectation.

In the meantime, we find ourselves in a situation where the Canadian partner in the venture, Mr. Hasenfratz and his Linamar corporation, are the heroes of the exercise, in a way, as a small and very plucky Canadian enterprise that tried to take on something very big indeed. There have been questions not just in the last week but in the year that this partnership survived as to whether or not Hasenfratz and his company would be able to make it go. It would appear not. They did not seem to have the resources in terms of a line of credit that would allow it to continue. So we find that the larger and the more financially strong partner has survived, as is so often the case in the business world, and the ownership of the company will become American.

Again, I am not particularly happy about it. If, however, the minister is to be taken at his word, in this afternoon's statement that TIC Investment Corp.—

Mr. McClellan: What do you mean "if"?

Mr. Gillies: If and when, the minister is to be taken at his word that TIC will honour the conditions which are very similar to those negotiated last year prior to the involvement of the two levels of government in the refinancing

package that allowed them to continue at that time—

Mr. Wildman: What guarantees have you got?

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Gillies: And so we have a commitment apparently—of course, none of us has seen the written agreement at this point—whereby White will continue to honour its commitment to Ontario with regard to employment, Canadian purchasing, training and future expansion. Indeed, we look forward to that and we look forward to the continued health of White Farm in the city of Brantford. We would hope the 925 jobs are secure.

However, I have to reflect on another debate which took place in this Legislature last year.

Mr. T. P. Reid: You will resign when they go to the United States?

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Gillies: Absolutely, Patrick. I reflect on another debate last year, with regard to the loan agreements with the Massey-Ferguson company. We are still waiting for another foot to come down on the Massey-Ferguson agreement. As members will recall, the terms of that loan agreement are to construct and run a research and development facility in Canada. I have asked Massey management a number of times and I have talked to the ministry a number of times, as to when we are to see this particular development. As yet, nothing has materialized. I had a bit of an interest, I might add, as to where that facility might be located. I had a certain thought about that, but to this point we have not seen it. I look forward to that.

I am also sure the members for the Windsor area are looking forward to the fruition of the Perkins Diesel arrangement with Chrysler, which is dependent on the health and the continued operation of the Massey-Ferguson company. Again, we have yet to see the finalization of that particular arrangement and we look forward to that.

However, the bottom line for me today is that it would appear that more than 900 people from White Farm have jobs. I spoke to Pete White, the senior United Automobile Workers' representative in Brantford, just a half hour or so ago. I think Mr. White agrees with me that while this is perhaps not the optimum solution to the employment problems at White Farm, it is a solution. As we debate—

Mr. T. P. Reid: Can we debate that proposition?

Mr. Gillies: You may not get a chance; we are running out of time. As we debate the auto industry, we look at the situation with our domestic auto industry and at the increasing incursions into this country of foreign automobiles. I am left wondering why people like myself, three and a half years ago, bought a foreign car. What did I do it for? I look back three and a half years ago and I think perhaps the social and the economic priorities were a little different than they are now.

The big bugbear and the great social responsibility of us all was to buy automobiles that were fuel efficient. At that time, and I think in some years previous to that, the imports were way ahead of us. I would venture to say that we do have a problem in our domestic auto industry in that there is a very popular conception among the purchasing public that certain imports are more reliable, more efficient, more durable and have a longer life expectancy.

I do not happen to think that is true any more. We have seen a change in emphasis on the part of the big three auto makers. We see more small models coming out and we see innovations in size of engine and fuel economy and so forth. That would lead me to think we are headed for a period where the auto industry in this country, faced with the fuel economics of the 1980s, can hold its own against any other.

But I would say to you that the so-called realities of the auto industry four and five years ago are still ingrained in the psyche of the buying public today. The auto industry has a major task ahead of it in not only producing a automobile which is efficient and durable, but in convincing the buying public that it is efficient and durable.

The governments, certainly this government and the government of Canada, must take greater and greater strides towards the development and health of our auto industry. I do look forward to joint venture and I am not reluctant at all to see greater emphasis on government involvement in the development of an up-to-date and modern—

Mr. T. P. Reid: That is not what the Minister of Industry and Trade says.

Mr. Gillies: We are all singing from the same hymn book but perhaps different hymns as to the development of our industry.

I would direct members' attention to a few independent corporate moves of late such as—

The Acting Speaker: We thank the member.

The time allotted for debate is now exhausted and he has concluded his opportunity.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Pursuant to the standing orders, I would indicate to the House the business for the rest of this week and for next week.

Tonight, we will continue with the supplementary estimates, beginning with the Ministry of Community and Social Services, followed by the Treasurer and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, and if any time remains move to throne debate.

Tomorrow, we will deal with the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and the Ministry of the Attorney General and, if any time also remains after those are completed, the throne speech debate.

On Monday, April 5, we will do the supple-

mentary estimates of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and then move on to the throne speech debate until six o'clock.

On Tuesday, April 6, in the afternoon and the evening, we will proceed with the throne speech debate.

On Wednesday, April 7, the usual three committees may meet in the morning: justice, general government and resources development.

On Thursday, April 8, in the afternoon we will deal with the private members' ballot items standing in the names of Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Cooke.

It being Maundy Thursday, we will adjourn at six o'clock and not meet in the evening. Of course, the House will not meet on Good Friday, April 9, or Easter Monday, April 12.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Ontario

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 15

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Thursday, April 1, 1982

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Thursday, April 1, 1982

The House resumed at 8 p.m.
House in committee of supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES (concluded)

On vote 2902, adult and children's services program; item 4, income maintenance, and item 5, adult social services:

Mr. Chairman: Resuming consideration in committee of supply of the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. If I recall, the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) was in the middle of a discussion at which time we terminated that by leaving the chair. I now turn to the honourable member for continued discussion.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Chairman, we tend to lose our train of thought when we have to spread estimates over more than one day. I hope not to be repetitious and ask the same things I have already asked. Nevertheless, if I recall correctly, the minister had just finished responding to some of my introductory remarks. Incidentally, it is interesting to note that one complete political party seems to be missing from this Legislature tonight.

Mr. Nixon: Let's move to abolish the NDP.

Mr. Boudria: Perhaps it would be in order to move to abolish the New Democrats. Nevertheless, continuing with the debate, the minister had just finished explaining in response to my question on welfare why—

Mr. Nixon: We thought the NDP had finally folded.

Mr. Stokes: If you need my assistance, I'll be happy to oblige you.

Mr. Boudria: I am glad to see the member for Lake Nipigon. I want the record to show he is here.

We were just discussing the fact that the welfare rate in Ontario is at approximately 67 per cent of the national poverty line. In response to that, the minister was explaining that welfare is a very small percentage here in Ontario in relation to other provinces. Of course, I concur

with that, but one of the problems we have is that welfare was originally designed to be something of a very temporary nature. That is, even within all the legislation, the meaning of general welfare assistance.

However, we have many cases now, especially in my part of the province, where people have been on welfare for months and in some cases even years, because there is simply no work to be had. There are other cases where people are ill. I know the minister will respond that people with illnesses should properly be on family benefits and, of course, I concur with him.

However, the reality of the situation is that people often stay on welfare for a long time until their cases are finally heard by proper medical authorities or finally approved or dismissed by the family benefits people. Then they go in front of the social assistance review board, are rejected there, and apply over again. We have people in my constituency who have been on welfare for a long time for that reason and for several others, such as lack of employment.

I recognize their number as a percentage may be smaller than in other provinces, but at the same time I think the minister should recognize that for those people who are unfortunate enough to be on general welfare assistance it is of very little comfort to have to live on basically 67 per cent of what they need even to make ends meet. After all, that is the definition of the poverty line, that level at which one cannot provide anything but the bare necessities.

I recognize that we went ahead and moved in a positive direction when we increased the rate for the permanently unemployable people last year, as the minister pointed out. That is very true. That needed to be corrected and it has been done and I am very glad to hear that. A lot of people in this province who are drawing that type of benefit are very pleased with that as well.

I would also like to point out that the female recipients of Gains-D are eligible as of today to avail themselves of the services of family benefits as well. Prior to today, a married female recipient of Gains-D could not collect such benefits. If her husband was unemployed, they both had to go on welfare. Of course, the reverse was not true for a male. As of today, April 1, that

situation has been rectified and I think that is a very positive move as well.

I would like to go back again briefly to sole support parents and this business of their being transferred to general welfare assistance. In the case where they have dependants, it is still very difficult to imagine that those people who are now drawing mother's allowance will have to go on general welfare assistance. In view of the rate for GWA, they are going to have a hard time making ends meet. I would like the minister to address that and elaborate on how that will be done and what the benefits will be.

I wonder if the minister could talk a little bit about homes for the aged and living conditions in them. In Toronto lately we have heard a lot of discussion, especially about one home operated by Metro called Greenacres Home for the Aged. There has been quite a controversy about the living conditions of the patients in that facility. I am sure it must be a symptom that exists elsewhere as well, but perhaps we have not heard as much about other homes as that one. It seems to have attracted an awful lot of attention.

One final thing, if I may: I should perhaps have addressed this in my original remarks. The federal Minister of National Health and Welfare has suggested that there should be an increase in the Canada pension plan for the disabled. We know Ontario has what is in effect a veto power over such changes. A province or a combination of provinces which have at least one third of the population can veto.

That is to say, one needs the agreement of at least two thirds of the provinces. In view of the fact that Ontario by itself has more than one third of the population of this country, that gives it an outright veto in this particular case. I would like to know what the government's position will be on that increase suggested by the federal minister.

Those are all of my comments, Mr. Chairman. I would invite the minister to respond to them.

Mr. Chairman: I will have to have my memory refreshed if we are going in rotation. Oh, the minister is going to respond. Fine.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That was the precedent the other night, Mr. Chairman.

Before I start, I would like to thank the member for Prescott-Russell and the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) for their very kind consideration of a conflict I had the other evening, by agreeing to adjourn this particular matter until today. While it may be

heresy, as I pointed out to the member for Prescott-Russell a few moments ago, it is quite often much easier for a minister of the crown to rearrange his schedule than a back-bencher. I do appreciate the very kind consideration shown by the two of them.

Just to elaborate for a moment on one concern of the member in regard to having a single social assistance delivery system for the able-bodied, we are not going to transfer able-bodied persons under the Family Benefits Act to general welfare assistance. There will be no more GWA or FBA for the able-bodied; there will be one program.

8:10 p.m.

As I pointed out in the address I made to the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association last June, the non-able-bodied will not be considered as recipients of social assistance or, in the vernacular, welfare. They are now to be regarded as provincial pensioners. They will not be in the normal welfare system. Their allowances will be paid directly by the province and their community endeavours—because, as I continue to emphasize, we are not mere cheque-writing machines—their community endeavours will be through community groups which are funded by the province on a transfer basis either directly to the agency, the community group, the church, whatever or through the municipality.

Why the change? I do not think you can go on much longer with two competing delivery systems in a community. First, there is waste and duplication. Second, one of the delivery systems is far superior to the other. The municipal one is far superior, whether it is city, county or regional, because it has many offices. Right now it has to process all of the applications. It is the only one capable of delivering. The province is relatively remote. The province takes the paper from the municipality.

In the case of the able-bodied, the real concern of those in the social services field is to try to get them back into the community as much as possible. The present system leads to segregation and ghettoization because the delivery system that is there in great numbers at the municipal level is not allowed to handle a case after 90 days and it goes on family benefits. Why should they open a case file and begin to look at counselling or a whole lot of other things because—and remember we are dealing with the able-bodied—there are always other things. They are not things you can snap your thumb at and tell somebody your real problem is this or that, so just cure the problem.

I think the member has had enough experience in this world to know that quite often those are long and difficult and require specialized help. The files are not even being opened on them. Why should they be, because in 90 days they will become a provincial recipient? When you become a provincial recipient it is a remote thing. You get your cheque at the end of the month. If you do get into any difficulty and need special assistance or anything else, you go back to the municipal system.

What we want is one system for the able-bodied and one system on a comparable but different basis for the disabled or what we now call the pensioners. We will fund it accordingly. There will be one rate and so on. It is not a lowering of rates or a raising of rates, it is the integration of a service component so that social assistance will have the potential and the reality of being a hand up and not a handout. None of us wants that, because it does not do a single bit of good, particularly for the long-term cases you are referring to.

For years, not only in this Legislature but in the gatherings of concerned people everywhere, the biggest concern has been this ghettoization, this segregation, this isolation from the mainstream of the community. I do not think you can begin to attack that until you have a single-focus program for the able bodied, as well as a single focus put on a great many differing parts, a specialized approach to the problems of the disabled.

There is a difference between those who have become disabled in adult life because of poor health and those who were born with a disability, such as the developmentally handicapped or indeed physically handicapped. There is a difference between the one who has suffered enormously from emotional illnesses and has to be brought back gradually into the community and someone who perhaps will never, except without massive support systems, be able to even live in the community. I think we have achieved that yardstick.

For years, the people who were disabled used to complain a little privately about why they had to go to the welfare office because they were sick, etc. I am sure you have had these conversations where medical practitioners who do decide in the end are wriggling the lines and doing the testing. These disabled ask: "Why do I have to go to the welfare office? I am really a pensioner. It is my health. If I could work, believe me, I would not care if I had to move to the Northwest Territories, I would work."

Every one of us has heard that. There is the widow who says, "It is really beyond my control; I am not in the welfare system." Okay, we are breaking that away by saying, "You are in the pension system." At least that is a morale incentive and a psychological thing. I think that will pay dividends.

As you know, we have done certain things to raise the rates and to end all the red tape. If a person is permanently unemployable and cannot work because of his health then he is disabled. It is not through medical diagnosis. It is not through all the things people have with that affliction. That is a terrible affliction at any time, but particularly in middle age. One has worked, has done a lot of things and then, suddenly, one's health goes and they say, "You cannot work any more but you are not disabled."

I knew about that stuff 10 or 12 years ago. I swore if I was ever the minister, I certainly would do it. I have urged every minister along the way to do it. We have done it and that is it. By October or November when the final step comes in there is one rate, one category and that is it.

There will be dialogue. I am quite sure there will be dialogue between you and me as we go into tests with municipalities. The tests we want to do are not pilot projects. They are tests to refine and to streamline, because the municipalities are enthusiastic about this. I think that is exciting because it means the community wants to come to grips with this problem.

There is a lot of cynicism around today that social assistance is a dead-end road, that it is not a popular thing and the public is fed up all the way up to the eyeballs with it. They have heard it all, backwards and forwards, for two decades. That is true. But I also think the public, that is, you, me and the people who put up all of the money, really want to get down to business and get at it.

They are saying: "Will you stop talking about it? Will you stop having philosophical arguments? Just get to it. You know the system is not what it should be. You have some brains. You have some talent. Will you please all get together and do it because, Lord knows, we have put enough of you in administrative offices." That is precisely what we are doing.

The honourable member talked briefly of some concerns about homes for the aged. I think today we have not a problem in the homes for the aged, either run municipally or by charitable foundations, but rather a challenge.

As the member knows, residential care for the aged has just about disappeared. There is literally no market for able-bodied people who want to live communally in a home for the aged in the vast bulk of the province that there was only a few years ago. What is happening now is the people who are looking for that type of care are coming in at a much later age and, in the vernacular, are frail. They have a health problem. If they do not qualify on the bureaucratic sheet they are really a nursing home case or extended care case.

I say to the members who are here tonight, when you check into your own homes for the aged in your own locales and you talk privately to the administrators or to the people you know there, regardless of whether it is a charitable institution or a municipal one, they will confirm what I have been saying. The people who are still there and are residential, fully ambulatory, are there only because they came in a few years ago. There is nobody coming in the front door.

8:20 p.m.

What is happening is that no matter how modern many of the homes are, and no matter how much they were built to the standards of the times, they were built as residential places. They were not built as extended care facilities. That is the challenge. Those places have to be converted.

When I talk about not being built for it, yes, the beds can be in the same place but, for instance, the washrooms have to be changed. My friend and colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) and I were in Ottawa not too long ago at a home for the aged that was built in 1964 beyond any known government or private standards; a marvellous place, way beyond; and yet in 1982 it is obsolete inside.

Only one washroom door per floor will fit a wheelchair. Most of the patients now are nonambulatory. One can always bring food by tray, but for the washrooms and the bathing rooms and so forth, the vital things, the very basics of humanity, especially when somebody becomes frail, one has to have the facilities and one has to have the design.

What are we doing about it? In many of them, we are putting up the funds if they renovate. Somehow there is the mysterious thing, that we are doing something wrong if we are not building something new. The building is fine. Many of the buildings are fine. The interiors have to be changed to meet the modern case load.

With regard to Greenacres, the province has not been stingy. Greenacres was built as a residential home for the aged. It is only 25 years old. To many people it is incomprehensible as to how a structure only 25 years old cannot meet the need. In those 25 years, Greenacres has changed from a residential home for the aged—sure, the bathrooms could be at the end of the floor; everybody was walking. In all but name it now is a psychogeriatric hospital. That is their entire clientele in that building. They are all psychogeriatric. Many of them are no longer ambulatory. Most of them are feeble.

I know you must wonder when reading that people literally have to be dragged to the bathroom. The bathrooms are at the end of the corridor. When people are walking and the distance is from here to the front door of this chamber, that is perfectly normal. But when people suddenly and forever are going to be nonambulatory or are feeble or confused or with dementia, in all the categories of the psychogeriatric patient, it is a tremendous burden on staff to take them that distance.

So that burden on staff becomes enormous and more staff has to be hired. Yet all of the standards—I am not talking about the standards of rigidity; I am talking about just the normal standards. You can say, "For a place like that, you need only a staff of this size." If all of the clientele were ambulatory, as in the old days, yes, but the world has changed in there and the world is never going to change back.

We have to meet that challenge. I think we have to face up to it. As you noticed in the throne speech, in addition to the work we are doing, there is shortly to commence a joint study between the Ministry of Health, which has the extended care homes or the nursing homes, and ourselves, particularly to begin to rationalize the care of the elderly. They are really all coming into one category. They are extended care at the very least. There is very little residential.

To my critic from the Liberal Party, because of the logistics and so forth in his area it may not be as pronounced a trend there today as, for instance, in the city of Ottawa, but the difference is not very far behind and it will catch up. This is the challenge and this is what we have to work at. We have to change the places that fulfilled an honourable and a decent role, and have done it on an outstanding basis. The municipal homes for the aged and the charitable homes for the aged in this province were the very real pioneers of care for the aged and have

done a marvellous job over the years. They are the pride and joy of the rural counties and municipalities in many cities and of the churches. All they have done is to be too successful and now they have to meet another challenge.

As a government we have to give them the resources to do so and have a standardized structure so we can put the resources into care without the worry of duplication of jurisdiction or how the capital is raised or whether it is on private tender and so forth.

In the meantime, in the particular case at Greenacres and at the other Metro homes which come under the most pressure—there have been some in rural areas where there has not been the notoriety but they have been brought to my attention—this minister and this government have not been stingy. We have been issuing the closest things to blank cheques humanly possible within government.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Oh now, now, now; the minister should not get carried away.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I look at the chairman of the public accounts committee and he will recall the former leader of the New Democratic Party saying, "What are you going to do about Greenacres?" I was at a dinner the night before with my friend the Metro chairman. I asked him if he would get the thing fixed up and send me the bill. That is what we did.

Mr. T. P. Reid: All right, but that is not across the board. That was for Greenacres. The minister indicated he was writing a blank cheque for everybody in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is not only Greenacres, it is Fudger House. I point that out because of the problem in Metro and the problem in some rural areas where they have anticipated the problem because of the experience in Metro. It could be done there in a much more orderly fashion than it is being done.

On the question of the Canada pension plan, I did not reject anything. The federal minister rebuffed me.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Nothing personal, I trust.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No. Actually we are very good friends. She does pay social calls upon me.

Mr. Roy: She does not go for the minister at all.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is not what she said in my office. She is a very fine, distinguished minister and a credit to not only her sex but to all of the things that are fine in this country. Let us make no mistake about that. The federal

minister has a very deep concern about the level of the CPP disability pension.

There are many CPP pensioners who, because they are no longer able to work at an earlier age or have not worked very long, have not built up very much credit. They are therefore very far away from the general average or the maximum shared average under social assistance for a disabled person from outside of the CPP of \$501. The federal minister wants to do something about it. One of her proposals was to use the CPP itself to bring that level up to \$500. That is her proposal. It is not the proposal of the government of Canada. It is not the proposal of the federal Minister of Finance.

The federal Minister of Finance and the 10 provincial ministers are now dealing with the Canada pension plan in its entirety. The proposal boiled down by Mme. Bégin was that provincial and federal social services ministers draw to the attention of the 11 ministers of finance, one of them being my good friend and colleague and member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller) that this should be considered in their deliberations over the future of the Canada pension plan.

8:30 p.m.

Mr. McClellan: But the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) already vetoed it, didn't he?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No. He didn't veto anything. She rebuffed me. I will now tell you how she rebuffed the Ontario plan—it was not even a veto; she just said "no." I proposed that we use guaranteed income supplement money to bring the disability rate up to that \$501 level right now, to use it as a bridge until future arrangements were made under one of two plans, either the Canada pension plan or the proposed—I suppose "proposed" is the best word, because it is still a concept—national disability insurance program, somewhat akin to—

Mr. McClellan: Your Treasurer will veto whichever is proposed.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Oh, be careful.

Mr. Martel: He wouldn't dare.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The proposed national disability insurance program, outside of CPP, would be somewhat akin to the program Saskatchewan is considering bringing in.

The reason Ontario advocated the use of the GIS was that there was a precedent for it with CPP. In the beginnings of CPP, with the survivors' benefits and disability benefits, GIS money was used until the CPP credits were built up. That particular bridge was devised by the

person who is today the federal Minister of Finance, Mr. MacEachen. It worked well because the moment CPP, as a pension, became viable, the GIS money was disengaged and put back to its normal use. There was no clutter, no duplication, no red tape, no abolishing of programs, no mergers or anything. Once the bridge was completed, a clear-cut demarcation, there was a program that I think has operated relatively well ever since.

The problem facing us is that the future of the CPP is not going to be decided for a while; so why not use that GIS money—

Mr. Mackenzie: At least five years, according to your people.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That may be; or it may be 10. But why not use that GIS money on the disability as a bridge, which I say to the member for Hamilton East is exactly what the trade union movement, in its collective bargaining, does as well; it does something until the good solution is found. I was told—not only told, I was shouted at—“No, not a single penny of GIS. It would cost \$240 million. Not a penny. You must be joking.”

Along with some other provinces, I said the Ontario proposal was not a joke; it was a very realistic attempt to deal in a very realistic manner with a problem that is going to be here today and tomorrow until the CPP in its totality, as normal or conventional retirement benefits and survivors' benefits, as disability, or as a national insurance program, is straightened out. The great benefit was that we could disengage the moment that money was no longer needed and we would no longer have the duplication of plans etc.

The Minister of National Health and Welfare told me “no.” She told me furthermore that the federal Minister of Finance would not look favourably upon it. I rather thought he would. I really do not know, because it has not been put to him. That was around 9:35 a.m. on February 24 or 25. She never unveiled her proposal about the CPP until the afternoon.

The Treasurer of this province stands falsely accused of not having done anything. The program I put forward there was backed by the Treasurer of Ontario. His parliamentary assistant was with me when it was presented, my parliamentary assistant was there, and we were told “no.” That is where it stands as of this moment.

I will tell you something. I am willing to wager that within a year the federal government will start using GIS money; they may not do it

exactly in the way that we suggest, but I am willing to wager that within a year they start using it.

Mr. Stokes: How much?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I tell you, I do not want any credit for it at all—no credit at all—but they will be using it because there is a need to use a clear and effective bridging mechanism out there and it cannot be found in the CPP.

Mr. Stokes: I'll take \$50 on that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The last time you took \$50 on me, I had to travel all the way to the north to collect. Gasoline was only 49 cents a gallon in those days. There is no way I am coming to collect at \$2.50 a gallon.

Mr. Boudria: That's because of the ad valorem gas tax.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, it is not because of the ad valorem gas tax. You were so considerate the other night that I will be benevolent tonight.

I hope that answers your questions and your concerns. These are going to be ongoing; perhaps you might like to discuss that on some future occasion. As I say, my parliamentary assistant was there during the negotiations, and the parliamentary assistant for the Treasurer was there, as was the Treasurer's staff. It was a full-fledged Ontario proposal, and it was rejected completely out of hand.

Mr. Chairman: Continuing with supplementary estimates, are we going to have a little discussion as to who is going to speak? Mr. Boudria, do you have further questions?

Mr. Boudria: I have one or two more points, Mr. Chairman, and then I will be finished, if that is okay.

If that happens with the GIS, I will be the first to give the credit to the minister.

Mr. Stokes: It is not his money; it's Ottawa's.

Mr. Boudria: I realize that, but it was his proposal and I have no way of knowing what went on at that meeting—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Oh, there is a tape. She taped it all.

Mr. Boudria: I see. Maybe somebody does not trust somebody else if the conversation was taped for future record.

I just want to make a few remarks. He is quite right when he says that there is not as much stigma attached to the Family Benefits Act as there is to the general welfare assistance, and we have seen a lot of evidence of that. People in my constituency do not exactly brag about the fact that they are on GWA. It is something they do

not like to discuss even if they are ill and on assistance and, as I said, many of them are. However, those who are on FBA think of themselves as being pensioned, because they are no longer capable of working, and that is seen by everybody, themselves included, in a much different light.

I am glad to hear that the minister is attempting to have some rationalization of the situation in the homes for the aged. It is a very confusing issue. To most people in the general population, it is very difficult to understand the difference between a home for the aged, a home for special care in certain cases and a nursing home. In many cases, I would be the first to say there is none. There is, perhaps, a difference in the level of care but there is none in the composition of the clientele that they have. They seem to have customers who have almost identical needs, although their needs are not met at the same level. That seems to be a problem, and I am glad to hear the minister is addressing that.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not point out the excellent service that we are getting from the FBA office in my own constituency under the leadership of the person in that area, whose name is Mr. Paul Blondin. He took over that office approximately a year ago. I did not consider the service to be all that great at the time that he took over. He had to make some major changes and he did them and the service has improved considerably. There are still improvements to be made, perhaps most of them because of the fact that there are so many cases lagging from before. Perhaps that is the reason. As a matter of fact, I am quite sure that is the main reason there are still improvements to be made.

I feel it was a good move on the part of the ministry to have people in those offices who are actually in charge, because before there was nobody in charge in those offices except a person located very remotely away. I think the person in Cornwall was somewhat responsible for the office in Hawkesbury, for instance.

It is very difficult to supervise an office from a distance of 50 miles. I am sure the northern member thinks 50 miles is close, but we think of it as being a very ineffective way of controlling something. The new method of having somebody directly in charge and with local decision-making power in that office has really enhanced the way that whole operation seems to work; it has increased the efficiency and the quality of

service the constituents of my own riding have received.

8:40 p.m.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to explain to the minister and members of the House that our critic for the Ministry of Community and Social Services is ill tonight and will not be back; so he will not be able to participate in these estimates.

I want to start out by congratulating the minister on taking over the very onerous responsibilities that are attached to this ministry. I know that he has made his mark already, because in terms of the supplementary estimates he has got a fair chunk of the money that is required for the delivery of programs to complete the financial responsibilities during fiscal year 1981-82. Already he is making his mark.

More important than that, I happen to know that this minister had a very key and pivotal role to play in the setting up of a delivery system for mental health along the north shore of Lake Superior where for the first time ever in northern Ontario a psychiatrist will be stationed on the scene. That is a far cry from the situation that existed prior to his arrival, when many of the children with learning disabilities were waiting as long as a year just for an assessment. I know that is not the primary reason for setting up a resident psychiatrist in the north as a pilot project; but not only will he be a resident of the community of Terrace Bay, he will also travel to other communities such as Marathon, Heron Bay, Manitouwadge, Caramat, Geraldton, Longlac, Beardmore—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Schreiber.

Mr. Stokes: I will get to that. I am going around the horn—Beardmore, Nipigon, Red Rock, Dorion, Hurkett and, last but not least, the fair community of Schreiber.

We have a steering committee set up that is charged with the responsibility of making recommendations for a board, somebody who will know the needs in those various communities and set up a regimen for this psychiatrist and his aides to deliver that much-needed service to that area.

The budget for this year is in the neighbourhood of \$330,000, which is not an insignificant amount of money when one considers the need for this kind of thing throughout the province. It is my understanding that all of the money is not coming out of this ministry; it is a shared program between this ministry and the Ministry

of Health. I would have to say, and with pleasure—in fact, I would be remiss if I did not say so—that the people in that area are extremely appreciative of the joint efforts being made by this minister and his colleague the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman).

I was pleased to hear the minister say he found it dismaying that somebody could be permanently unemployable but not classified as disabled. I have found that just as disconcerting as the client group, and I was just as dismayed as the minister himself when I first came into this assembly and found that to be the case.

I welcome the assurance he gives that before many months have passed this will be a thing of the past and that if somebody is permanently unemployable, he will be considered to be disabled for all intents and purposes. All of us here have to deal with this client group on a regular basis, and we know this is nothing more than a play on words. I do not know how one differentiates between someone who is permanently unemployable and someone who is disabled. I am sure the minister has the total support of everybody in this assembly in making that change.

In going over the detailed items for this supplementary estimate of \$43 million, we always wish it was more in times of austerity and constraint. I am sure the minister has done his level best to make an impression upon his cabinet colleagues for the things needed by the group that, for whatever reason, needs the temporary and sometimes permanent assistance of this ministry.

I wish to ask the minister something specific. I checked with my colleague the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden), because I felt she might be much more knowledgeable in this field than I am. I want to hark back to a situation that occurred a few years ago in my riding where a person was a full-time employee of the Department of National Defence, working at a radar base in an unorganized community.

This man and his wife had 10 children. He was employed for \$310 a month, with which he had to keep the 12 of them together. This was a few years ago. The gentleman in question said: "I can't afford to keep working. I like my job. I enjoy what I do. I like the environment and everything else. But my family can't afford me. I know I could make more if I were on welfare."

I said: "Wait a minute. Don't quit your job. Let me check this out and see what you would get on welfare to satisfy at least the basic needs of you, your wife and your 10 children." I

contacted John Yaremko, who was the Minister of Social and Family Services. I think that is what the ministry was called at that time.

I said: "He gets \$310 a month and if he were on welfare he would be getting something like \$478 a month, a difference of about \$168. Obviously, he is doing his family an injustice by continuing to work, but he likes his job. Why don't you come up with a program that will supplement his regular wages and allow him to maintain his pride and dignity by continuing to work and yet not do his family an injustice?"

8:50 p.m.

My friend John said: "Let me talk about this to my officials." He came back about a week later and said: "I am sorry. My officials tell me we don't have such a program and there is nothing we can do."

I said: "John, the man is going to quit his job. In fact, I am going to suggest that he quit his job, because he is doing his family an injustice. I don't want that, he doesn't want that and I am sure you don't want it; so why don't you go back to your officials again and design a program rather than using a program that was designed by mandarins and bureaucrats down here in the ivory tower, who then went out to try to find a client group that it would fit. Get out in the community. Find out where people are hurting, where they need, as you say, a leg up or a hand up rather than a handout." That is all we were asking on behalf of this fellow, and he said, "No, there is absolutely nothing we can do."

I want to report to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the minister that fellow quit his job and for all practical purposes he has not done a gainful day's work in the interim, and you know how long ago it was.

Mr. Nixon: Do you mean the minister?

Mr. Stokes: No. I think you know what I am saying.

I am told by my colleague the member for Beaches-Woodbine that the government does have some kind of program of assistance to a limited degree, though perhaps not in monetary terms. It will pay their Ontario hospital insurance plan premiums and perhaps give them a fuel allowance or something of that nature, but no real dollars to supplement their earnings, which are meagre, far below the poverty line, and the difference between what they would get and what it takes them to maintain a family at a reasonable level.

I want to ask the minister, if he does have such a program, why is it as badly underfunded as my

colleague suggested to me a little earlier? I must confess I have not had a large number of people asking me, but it has bothered me for these 12 years, since I first brought it to the minister's attention. I am unaware of it, but if there is such a program, I would like the minister to explain it to me in some detail.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Before getting into that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to discuss very briefly the matter of the pioneering effort in the provision of a psychiatrist in the children's mental health area, because it is a community one.

All the things the member has said about the program are accurate at this time. We see a great potential, particularly for areas like the north shore which will never be in a position to offer enough in one location for that very specialized type of practitioner to be able to locate permanently in such locations, not just on the basis of his or her earnings but also on the basis of getting enough clients in any one place to have a reasonable practice.

I am quite sure this will be the first of many, and it will not necessarily be restricted to the psychiatric or psychological disciplines. There are other areas. The introduction of Bill 82 will almost make that mandatory. It is always nice to say something is mandatory when talking about downtown Toronto; there is one on every street corner. It is another thing when there are distances of locale, time, space, a rather sparse population and all those other things.

We are really looking forward to great things from that program. However, since the member brought it up, I want to put a little bit of an onus on him, because he knows intimately each and every one of those communities he named tonight, while I have only been in them.

Mr. Stokes: You've been around, Frank.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am a minister who does not go out of the province, remember. You have to go somewhere.

The very fibre and core of that program is going to be the community board. I would appreciate it, because I am some 2,900 air miles away, as is my colleague the Minister of Health. We share the concern. We do not want that board to become an institutional board.

We understand the difficulties at this time of starting up. There has to be a bit of expertise. Many persons there may be a little bit shy about getting into it, and therefore you have to start with somebody. But I think it would be a fatal mistake if that became an institution-dominated

board. It may be in the beginning, but as rapidly as possible it should embrace the entire community.

I say to the member for Lake Nipigon that I hope he will encourage the people in the community to participate. I know many of them may be shy. They may feel that this is an area for professional people, that maybe they will not be able to contribute as meaningfully at that level as at some other. But if that program is to do what is expected in that area and become the pioneer effort, not just for the more remote or less densely populated areas of the north but also for the rest of the country, then it is going to be because of the community response and participation on the board.

I certainly hope the people who read this will understand this is a very earnest and candid plea from myself and the Minister of Health. We are not disparaging anybody else, but this was to be set up as a community effort. If it is going to be a community effort, it has to be a community board or else the community will eventually feel just as isolated from it as they do about having to go and get services many miles away. I certainly hope they will respond.

In terms of the question asked by the honourable member about supplementing full-time wages, there is no formal program. What has been done by levels of government—because one is into a difficulty about supplementing one man's wages because of family circumstances and yet not in other ones. In this case it is the number of children and the locale that puts particular stress upon the family and indeed makes social assistance enticing.

Social assistance has to be based upon the realities of so many mouths to feed. The allowances for the larger family have to be more than for the smaller family, whereas the paycheque is a single unit, whether you have no spouse and no dependants or whether you have a spouse and a number of dependants.

However, governments at various levels have tried to attack this problem through the tax credit system, through increasing the family allowance or the baby bonus, through premium assistance for OHIP and other ways. Frankly, it is not as much of a problem today as it was at the time the honourable member refers to, which was a dozen or so years ago. At that time it was a very real concern, because in many cases you did not have to have more than three or four children or a particular problem in the household, a particular problem of illness or some-

thing; quite frankly, social assistance was more attractive.

Inflation, the rise of wages in the country and so forth has diminished that appeal. We have also made changes now where, if a person is on social assistance, we encourage and allow for part-time work and a number of other things to get the person back in. These have also made assistance less attractive. However, I think the fundamental point the member makes, that social assistance should never be intended as a substitute for the wages that can come from gainful employment, is very significant.

9 p.m.

Social assistance for the able bodied has to be a temporary measure. That may last a heck of a long time. It may take a long time to have that person back and entirely self-sufficient. Indeed, he may be with his maker before he is entirely self-sufficient. But I think we have to look at the system as a hand-up one, an endless series of hand-ups where, no matter how many failures there are or how many frustrations, as long as one is willing to try there is a hand-up.

One area where we are doing this is in the field of the handicapped. We have started the process in the case of a person who is physically handicapped where it does not relate to the retarded field where he insists upon the massive community support program for the developmentally handicapped person who lives outside of a facility.

In the case of the physically handicapped individual who does require attendant care, we have started the process where, in addition to one's monthly disability pension, we will provide an amount equal to what it would cost us to purchase attendant care in a small home or a residence. If one wants to live by oneself with one's attendant, one has one's monthly pension plus a fixed amount. We have four of those now in the province. In fact, we have had three requests since I have been the minister. All three have been granted.

It is so new it is not even recognized by Revenue Canada and I feel rather sheepish in saying, "I can give you your pension but I cannot give you this lump sum or you will have to pay income tax on it because there is no provision." We have to finesse a way through a charitable organization operating as a trustee so the person is not jeopardized by having to pay income tax on that amount, which he never receives anyway. It is turned over in terms of the attendant care.

California has been quite successful in this

regard. I know everybody picks holes in its administrative system, criticizes it and everything else, but California has a very simple program for anyone who would ordinarily reside in an institution: "Here is how much it would cost to put you in that institution. If you choose to live independently, here is the money."

There are many critics of the program. They say it erodes standards. It does a lot of things. You are at the mercy of God knows what kind of a person you are going to meet up with who is going to be your attendant or your associate. You are at risk out there. How can a government do that? Quite often forgotten is the fact that person, notwithstanding he is handicapped, has every single right to live independently in the community. Nobody picks the standard by which you and I do. They may make suggestions. They may tell us the kind of medical or health care to get, but whether we obtain it or not, whether we are satisfied with something else either higher or lower, in the end is our own business.

I think that type of thing, which is somewhat akin to what you were saying because it would be subsidizing their pensions, wages or whatever, is the coming thing. It is not for all handicapped. I think we would make a terrible mistake if we said, "You are all going to have to do this," because many of them cannot or do not want to. I think there are some implications and some advantages in that direction.

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Rainy River. I am sorry, is this a follow-through immediately? The member for Windsor-Walkerville.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Chairman, I trust the answers will be as brief as the questions.

The Deputy Chairman: That was why I was tempted to listen to this gentleman. Please proceed.

Mr. Newman: Mr. Chairman, I want to bring to the minister's attention several items concerning this ministry that have disturbed me over the years. I was wondering why there was not some type of assistance given to families or individuals in the family who qualify for certain types of programs where the family would prefer to keep an individual at home, but to keep him or her at home would sometimes mean some structural changes to the home to accommodate the individual.

In my estimation, it would probably be a cheaper program than having people put into a nursing home, a rest home, you name it, or even

a hospital in cases where a hospital situation is required. I thought there might be some type of financial assistance to the children to keep mom or dad, brother or sister right in the facility, which might mean adding an extra room, putting in a bathroom, or various structural changes to accommodate the individual who is going to stay at home with his friends, relatives or loved ones. Of three items that disturb me, that is one I would appreciate the minister replying to.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Could I answer them one at time?

Mr. Newman: All right then, if the chairman will allow me to ask the other two.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We have a rather ad hoc program at the moment. We can do that type of thing by order in council on a very specialized basis. But I think that is the wave of the future. We have to begin looking at adaptations of care packages. Not everybody needs to be cared for in a hospital, an institution, a facility, a nursing home or whatever. If the goal of social programs is to enhance and strengthen family life, then I think we have to go beyond the talking stage and start to do some things about it.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, for instance, has a program now for conversions that will help living for the handicapped—a ramp or an extra bathroom or whatever. We are working on it. As the Minister of Health and I study the care package, where it should be, how flexible it should be, one of the spinoffs of that will be that we will be dealing with those who are not aged but who are just as frail as the aged and require care.

One man received a very special benefit from us—I was talking about that a moment ago—when he found out he had a very debilitating disease and he had about two or three years before that disease really took its toll and he would no longer be in control of himself. He consulted with the ministry and took all of his assets and converted his home into the type of home in which he would be able to live as a nonambulatory person with a very debilitating disease. We arranged that so that he could put his assets into a physical change for a new lifestyle and there would be no waiting period when it came time for his pension. Indeed, he has been able to remain in his own home. For many families, no question, that is not possible.

I do think where a family is concerned enough about a member of the family we should be coming in a very practical way to its

assistance, even if it is much easier and more practical in the ways of the world to have that person institutionalized and the individual might get “better” care in the institution because at least there is a change of shifts. The member is quite right, in many cases it is a structure such as a bathroom, a ramp, or a lot of other things that are needed. These are the things we are looking at today, rather than the building of more and more beds in a central area. I hope that in the next 18 months or so we will begin to make some significant advances in having a really flexible care package.

9:10 p.m.

Mr. Newman: I appreciate the minister's comments. He does not realize it is almost 20 years since I brought that up in this House hoping that government would listen to exactly what we are talking about right now. I am pleased to see the minister is at least forward thinking when it comes to a situation like this. It is the right approach and I am pleased the minister's officials—maybe they should have read Hansard back in the early days when I was around this place.

There are two other items, unless the minister wants to reply.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I would like to respond and say to someone who has advocated that type of program for more than two decades that I will give him a government guarantee. Notwithstanding who is the minister of this portfolio, there will be a real practical start on that type of program before the member says goodbye to this House. I would certainly hope there is some recognition across the province of someone who was a very real pioneer in this area. He fought at a time when he was told he was silly, that he should look at the marvellous institutions we had, that he was really very backward and so on.

I listened to it and I have seen some of the things that have come back at the member. I guarantee the member for Windsor-Walkerville, on behalf of this government, it will be there before he makes his swan song in this House. It may not be the best and it may not be doing all things, but it will be there.

Mr. Newman: I look for no recognition at all. My responsibilities here are to represent constituents in particular and the public in general. If I can make anything constructive in this House, I think I have a responsibility to do that. As far as any plaudits for it, I look for nothing of that sort at all.

The other item I would like to raise is concerning the social assistance appeal boards. Why does a municipality have to wait for three or four individuals to come into the city of Windsor on a certain date to hear appeals? Why not have three Windsor residents, selected by the ministry, who have just as much intelligence as any of those who are going to come into the community, hear the appeals as quickly as possible? Why punish those who need the assistance by making them wait for the period a tribunal comes into the community and decides that person or persons qualify for assistance? We are punishing the wrong people.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I was part of the beginning and remember there had been no interpretations; it was all a new thing some years ago. There would be regional interpretations and therefore the concern about regional boards was that in some areas of the province there would not be uniform administration. Windsor and Essex counties were not one of those.

I realize there have been difficulties, particularly with travel arrangements and so forth. But we have expanded the board now at the request of the new chairman, which should mean much faster appeals and more representation from regional areas. That should cut the backlog. Sometimes there is a reason for a bit of a backlog, either they fell under another municipality, or maybe required further investigation. One of the long backlogs, I say in fairness to the member, has been this medical question of permanently unemployable or disabled and that has gone forever.

I hope that will speed it up. If that does not work and the backlog is not cut, I will certainly consider regional boards, because I do not like those delays for two reasons. First, your colleague the member for Prescott-Russell mentioned that you can be on general welfare assistance a long time, because they are sifting through medical evidence and then they find out you should be on family benefits. But it does not do a heck of a lot of good because you were at the lower rate for a period of time and it is all being reviewed. That is one reason. There is an impact, the rates are different now.

Second, there is the burden upon the municipality if it should have been a family benefits case nine months ago. The municipality still, over those nine months, had to pay the 20 per cent and it needs all its resources.

We should have been studying it. I certainly am aware of his concerns about the delays. I am aware of his advocacy of regional boards which

might be faster. I think improvements in the boards will accomplish that. If they do not, we will certainly take a real look—because it has never really been looked at—at the idea of regional boards. Today there are enough precedents that the decisions are pretty uniform. It is not like it was 12 years ago, seven years ago, five years ago or even two or three years ago.

Another thing that will happen is that there will be a diminishing return as we go on because all the appeals on children with learning disabilities will disappear with the full implementation of Bill 82. Right now those are long and involved cases and do tie up the board, but there is no other vehicle until the full implementation of the bill.

Mr. Newman: Mr. Chairman, if I may, again I raise the issue of the appeal tribunal, not only because there may be a long delay, but the minister is aware that my community, the city of Windsor, is probably the hardest hit community in Ontario when it comes to unemployment. Unemployment only leads to a series of other problems and because of that I would think there might be some exception given to the community as far as that is concerned.

Or when the number of appeals reaches a certain point, at that time get in the officials in a hurry to hear the appeals and resolve the problems for the time being. The minister is aware of the adverse effects unemployment has on everyone in the community. Mind you, Windsor will survive and come through its difficult days as a better community than it ever was before.

The other issue I want to raise is to thank the minister for finally resolving the problem of the permanently unemployed but not disabled. It really has been a headache to those of us who are confronted with the problem, as well as to the citizen who cannot understand and says, "Here I am permanently disabled but I am employable. How?" Who would hire that individual?

Mr. T. P. Reid: Are you going to reply?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think it is pretty rhetorical. I think we have discussed it. I appreciate the member's comments.

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Beaches-Woodbine.

Mr. T. P. Reid: After all I've done for you!

The Deputy Chairman: I stayed with that party; I am moving over to the other one and then will come back. But I would like to

alternate between sides, if I may. Your indulgence will be appreciated.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Ingratitude is the greatest of sins. Remember that.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, I have a number of questions for the minister. My colleague the member for Lake Nipigon was talking about what I think is known as the work incentive program, which is geared to help some people who are perhaps considered to be the working poor. I would like to ask the minister if he can tell us how many people are on that program at present and how it compares with a year ago. Is that program growing in any way in order to keep people working rather than having them go on welfare where they can get a higher income?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Chairman, I think it is not exactly as the member describes. The work incentive program is primarily designed to get mothers with dependent children off family benefits as much as possible. There are also work incentive programs in the area of vocational rehabilitation and the disabled. I would take it that the matter she is looking at in these particular estimates would be under the first vote, which dealt with the Family Benefits Act. If I cannot give the member the exact figures in a couple of minutes I will certainly provide them to her. As a rule of thumb, in answer to your question, yes, the numbers are increasing.

9:20 p.m.

That in itself does not indicate success, because we are concerned about the drop-out rate. The work incentive program has been designed as a real cushion and support to getting back into the work force and not losing all of the fringe benefits—not losing the dental coverage or the OHIP or whatever. Before it was all or nothing. When they had children and they knew they were going to have medical expenses or something, it really was an all-or-nothing situation. No matter how much they wanted to go back they had to stay there.

It is not people dropping out for lack of work opportunity. We would not be so concerned with them dropping out if the jobs they were in were evaporating, but they are not. What we are concerned about is the growing number who are dropping out for what they call personal or family reasons. The job is still there, they could still be going to it, but they drop out and then a few months later re-enter at another job. The increasing numbers who are on it does not necessarily indicate total success. I think it is

successful when they are attracted to work or they have the opportunity to work, but it is not a bottom-line situation.

By category in the work incentive programs, there are now nine persons in the aged category; 168 in the disabled and blind category; 1,505 in the sole-support mother category; 42 in the fathers with dependent children category as of February, 1982; 145 permanently unemployable, that is really disabled; and there is one person who has an unusual category called "other."

In comparison to February of 1981, there were four aged; 170 disabled and blind; 1,150 dependent mothers; 26 dependent fathers and 99 permanently unemployable. The total for February, 1982—or as close as we have it—is 1,870 in such programs while there were 1,380 last year. When I say these are individuals, they are actually heads of families, so it represents more of the population than those numbers. Obviously, a mother or father represents more of the population. Disabled and blind may be a single individual or it may be a family but the benchmarks are 1,870 as of February 1982 and 1,380 as of February 1981.

Ms. Bryden: Probably one of the reasons there are still only 1,500 sole-support mothers on this is that either they cannot find day care for their children when they do wish to go out to work or they cannot find jobs that are anything but minimum wage or dead-end jobs, where they really would be better off to stay on welfare.

I think the important thing is if we are going to encourage people to leave welfare and to get into the work force we have to make it possible for them to be better off and to have their children adequately looked after. Simply to carry their OHIP and their other benefits for a few months is not going to result in any sort of permanent move into the work force.

I also think we still have to recognize there should be a choice in this matter. I do not think we should be forcing sole-support parents out into the work force if they feel they can be more effective in raising their families by providing what is in effect day care in the home, and that is a very valuable form of day care, as are day care facilities outside the home. I think we have to have that as a matter of choice.

I would like to ask the minister when he is going to give single fathers that choice by right, as presumably single mothers have had that right of choice, although there appears to be a move afoot, particularly in the general welfare

assistance categories, to push sole-support mothers out into the work force, whether or not they wish to go, by various devices such as giving them lower allowances or not moving them on to family benefits and leaving them on general welfare.

Is the minister prepared to end that discrimination against single fathers and to give single sole-support parents of either sex the opportunity to have an adequate income and to stay at home to look after their children when they are under 12 or under 16, which is the age at which the child becomes an adult under the welfare system?

Hon. Mr. Drea: The question of an automatic entitlement for a single-parent, male-headed family has been under review for some time and is still under review. There are some implications in it. I cannot in all honesty give a date as to when a change will be made. I can give you a commitment that a change will be made, but I cannot give you a date.

Ms. Bryden: Do you accept it as discriminatory?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Of course I accept it as discriminatory.

Mr. Mackenzie: Are we going to see the change in your term?

Hon. Mr. Drea: You may not.

Ms. Bryden: While we are defending the rights of single males—usually I am defending the rights of women in my portfolio in this House—I have had a very interesting person come in to see me who is a single male. He was an orderly in a hospital and developed a heart condition that required him to have a bypass operation. This meant he could no longer be an orderly. He had this operation, which we were able to give to him through our medicare system, and he virtually had what could be called a new lease on life.

At the age of 53, that man really wishes that he had not been given his new lease on life because he has not been able to find any sort of employment. He cannot do heavy work, he cannot walk up and down stairs delivering handbills; but he can walk five miles on level ground, whereas before his operation he could perhaps walk 100 feet. He has been restored to reasonably good health with certain limitations as to the kind of work he can do.

He is being asked to live on the GWA rate for a single male. I think it is under \$300 a month, and he just cannot find any sort of satisfaction in life on the very low figure that he is being given.

Of course, he did not get any increase last fall when other people got increases, so that as the cost of living goes up his standard of living goes down.

9:30 p.m.

He is not able to find any work to supplement his meagre rate and he cannot find accommodation at a reasonable rate so a good deal of it goes to his household costs. He feels life is not worth living. Are we going to condemn people who cannot find work to that kind of life below the poverty line?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I would appreciate it if the honourable member would give me that person's name and address privately. I want to have some people talk to him. First of all, if all else fails, he should not be on general welfare assistance. He should be up in another category. I said, "If all else fails."

Ms. Bryden: He has been trying to change his category for six months to a year.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I will get the name. I said, "If all else fails." Secondly, I would be particularly interested in having our vocational rehabilitation people look at him because obviously, while he is not physically as strong as he once was, he does have certain capabilities. I would like to explore this through them and through Canada Manpower because he is going to be with everybody for a while; I think you said he was 55.

If you would give me his name and so forth privately, we will begin to work on it because I do not like situations like that. We have a system in which that is not supposed to occur. He may be unusual; he may be just a little different. I am very appreciative you would bring up such a matter on behalf of an individual. We will get on to it right away and report back to you.

Ms. Bryden: I thank the minister. I will try that route. I think a year or two ago he did try phoning Premier Davis' office. A couple of things happened but his problem is still not solved. Perhaps the minister will be able to do it this time.

Another area I wanted to talk about is the increase in welfare cases. I do not know whether the supplementary estimate is based on a realistic estimate of what is happening to our welfare load, although I suppose this is just to carry us to March 31. Presumably, we know what the liability is now. Some of what has been happening with this increase in welfare cases resulting from layoffs, from unemployment insurance running out and from the lack of

action on job creation by this government, is creating a real crisis in welfare. It also seems to be resulting in a cutback in welfare services in kind rather than in actual dollars.

For example, I have learned that in one of the Metro Toronto welfare districts, the caseload on the social workers between November 1981 and December 1981 increased by 10 per cent which meant that seven workers who were carrying 634 cases in November were carrying 699 cases in December 1981.

In the fall, those workers were handling perhaps one or two emergency cases a day. In January 1982, they were handling up to four which meant less time for their regular caseload and under that kind of pressure the case workers are in danger of burning out. They are unable to give the same kind of service to the other people. One gets constant reports of people trying to phone a caseworker even during the limited hours when they know the caseworker is supposed to be in the office and they just cannot get through.

This is causing not only frustration, but a great many delays in assistance for people who need emergency help or who have run into some kind of emergency situation. The whole caseload situation usually peaks in January, I understand, and the figures I have only went up to December. I would like to ask the minister if he is looking into an increase in the allotments to municipalities to enable them to meet this increase in caseload without burning out the workers?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, we have been very concerned about the administration costs. As the general welfare assistance numbers go up because of unemployment, they are in for 20 per cent of the physical check, but there is also an administration cost of doing a check, taking the application and so forth. In the shelter subsidy last year for the Family Benefits Act cases, we removed the administrative costs entirely from the municipality and I am very grateful for that. We just mailed out our own cheques directly instead of having them do it.

As we have looked at budgets this year for municipal administration purposes, we have improved in many areas. Whatever increase they asked for in terms of contract workers because of the sudden increase in caseload—indeed in Metro, we did approve an increase based upon the increased caseload. So perhaps as the year goes on you will see those totals diminish. Metro did request an increase in

approvals for the number of workers to handle those cases and we approved it.

Ms. Bryden: One of the main roadblocks in increasing the service is that the municipality still has to pay 20 per cent of the cost which does inhibit some municipalities from putting on sufficient staff. Am I correct that we are the only province that requires municipalities to pay 20 per cent?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No.

Ms. Bryden: There is maybe one other.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Are you advocating that the province take over all welfare? I do not think I have heard that from your party. There are pretty severe implications in that one. It has not worked anywhere.

Ms. Bryden: Yes, that is our party policy, that services to people of this sort should be covered through progressive taxes which the province has access to and not through property taxes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not quarrel with that. I just did not want to get the impression that there had been a switch and you were talking about no contribution by the municipality. If there was no contribution by the municipality, we would de facto be running the whole service and I do not think anybody is advocating that at all. They might quarrel over the amounts or some of the costs, but if it is only the method by which the funding is arranged, then obviously that has been consistent with your policy all along. I am sorry, I misunderstood.

Ms. Bryden: We would still like decentralization of administration, but the 20 per cent for things like welfare should come from more progressive taxes than the property tax. That is our position. Other provinces still have municipally administered welfare services but they do not require the 20 per cent and they do not have this roadblock to the municipalities giving a proper standard of service or proper salaries to their workers.

I just have one other area I wanted to mention to the minister which did cause me considerable concern. I am told that under GWA, a mother with a new infant, who may have difficulty in breast feeding, used to get a special allowance for formula to supplement breast feeding or to take its place in some cases. The provincial nutritionist is supposed to have told Metro that they should cut out this extra amount, which ranged from \$11 to \$23 a month for formula, because as soon as the child was born an amount was added to the monthly income to provide for

the child's food and therefore supplements were not necessary.

9:40 p.m.

I am told a single mother and infant would receive a maximum of \$411 a month for food and rent in Metro Toronto, which is just under \$5,000 a year and is certainly well below the poverty line. In many cases those sole-support parents are having to dip into their allotments intended for food in order to pay rent above the amount that is allowed. The adequate nutrition of the child is not necessarily guaranteed by the \$411 a month. I think the social workers found it rather helpful to be able to offer this extra \$11 to \$23 a month for formula for those mothers who needed it.

I understand that has now been cut out completely for two of the major formulas that are used, Similac and Enfalac. The allowance for the carbohydrate-free formula, which was \$23, has been cut down to \$9 a month, which means that some is still going to have to come out of the rent if the mothers need this.

This seems to be a sort of penny-pinching that is really very serious because children with malnutrition do learn more slowly and it can have an effect on their future growth, their future mental development and so on. If it is true that the provincial nutritionist advocated to Metro that they could save money by cutting out this particular allowance, it seems to me they ought to take another look at it. I wonder if the minister could comment on that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding the special diets are still available. Obviously, the member has some concern. I will start some discussions to find out exactly what is going on. We may need some information on the particulars of the case.

You were talking about two different types of formula plus a third compound. It is my understanding that is in the area of special diets. As a principle they are still available. If you could give us some more details privately we would be very glad to look at it and to get back to you. I am very interested. I may be a grandfather two times over but I can still remember the cost of those products which were quite expensive some quarter of a century ago when I was a little bit younger and the prices were all a little smaller. We will get back to you almost immediately.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Chairman, I will be very brief since when you ask this particular minister what time it is, he builds you a clock. My

question is relatively simple and straightforward.

In 1980, the deputy minister of your ministry, who is no longer with you, indicated that there would be legislation to consolidate all the acts dealing with home support services; homes for the elderly, disabled and so on. There was going to be a consolidation of all these acts under one act so people would have something in one act they would know how to deal with in terms of municipalities and so on, and presumably also the resources to back up the new act.

If I recall correctly you, or the minister of the time, indicated in the estimates last fall that this act would be brought in. Can you indicate to us now when the act will be brought in and what resources there will be and will there be any money in the supplementary estimates to assist in that?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Just so I understand you, is this about the home support?

Mr. T. P. Reid: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: First, the de facto jurisdiction for the homemaker and the home support has been given to the Ministry of Health. They will be delivering the program. Some time this spring I will bring in a technical piece of legislation which will delegate authority to deliver the service to the Ministry of Health because, as long as it operates under my name, I get 50 per cent funding under the Canada assistance program and the Ministry of Health is not eligible for any funding. In effect, it becomes our agent.

I understand the actual delivery and implementation at the municipal stage is somewhat behind schedule, but my ministry has not been involved in this. It is now a matter between the Ministry of Health and the municipalities, but I will find out exactly what stage it is at and convey that to you. The development and delivery will be under the Ministry of Health although it will be the agent of the Ministry of Community and Social Services because of the funding mechanism. That will put it into place far faster.

Mr. T. P. Reid: As a technical point, I want to ask this question. Apparently this has been promised for some time, but are you going to transfer funds from your ministry to the Ministry of Health to pay for the services after you get your 50 per cent from the federal government?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, that is why the delegation; it is really a paper transaction. We put the bill into Ottawa as to what has been spent. It

flows back to us to our delegated agent so that for every dollar it spends, it will get back the 50 cents without all the impediments—

Mr. T. P. Reid: Will this be done before we adjourn in June?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, it is a minor bill. It just authorizes the Minister of Health to deliver the service which has been scheduled and approved under the Canada assistance program. It is really an auditor's bill for the benefit of the federal and provincial auditors.

Mr. T. P. Reid: There seems to be some concern in the municipalities about it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think the concern of the honourable member is that it took five years to produce the arrangement. In fairness, it took five months of earnest discussions between myself and Mr. Timbrell when he was the minister. Then we had to send out to the municipalities. They had some and we had some. We had to say they were all going to end and this was going to be it.

Some of the municipalities had a concern this would wipe out their entire programs because, after all, they had one through my ministry but they were not sure they were getting this one. Those concerns are unfounded. There will be a program right across. It will be phased in in conjunction with the chronic home care program as it goes across the province and we will be right out of it, because we would only bring in duplication.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Does this include the disabled, homes for the disabled?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes. It will be phased in right across. One cannot have one without the other because they all phase in to each other.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Chairman, I want to take a few minutes to deal with what may still be a bit of an inadequacy in the funding the minister has arranged in his estimates. I know there may be some preliminary moves in this matter but it has to do with the question of abused and battered women in our communities.

Before I start on that, while there are a number of things that could be covered this evening under this topic, I want to underline one comment of my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon.

The Deputy Chairman: I want to make sure of this: Does this pertain to the estimates we are dealing with under items 4 and 5?

Mr. Mackenzie: Yes, it does pertain to the

estimates. I think it comes under residential, home support and counselling services.

The Deputy Chairman: That does not fall on page 21, income maintenance or adult social services.

Mr. Mackenzie: Income maintenance is certainly an area it falls under, Mr. Chairman.

First, I want to underline a comment that was made by my colleague, the member for Lake Nipigon. That was the question of permanently unemployables. If I understood you correctly, you were taking a look at that so that they would be classified as disabled or on disability.

Hon. Mr. Drea: May I just interrupt? In October last year we announced that the two systems were over and that the financial gap between the two, which is significant, would be eliminated in two stages, with one increase in October 1981 and the final one in November of this year. From then on, there would only be one category. We have not given it a name yet. It may be "disabled," it may be "unemployable," but there is no differential any more. The test is, "Can you work?" If you cannot work, that is it.

9:50 p.m.

Mr. Mackenzie: I thank the minister for that. I just want to be clear and sure of it because it has been an area that has caused a fair amount of concern in many of our constituency offices. I wrote to the then Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Norton) back in February 1981 and raised with him the question of one of the newer facilities in my riding. Actually it is just outside my constituency, the Hope Haven Homes on Montclair Avenue in Hamilton.

The issues I raised were a result of touring the facility, which is a refuge for abused women and their children. We went over the kind of budget they were operating on and the work they were doing. We were really thrown by the fact in this facility were some nine beds. They were mostly volunteer workers. The budget they were trying to raise—and were not sure they would—in 1981, for example, was \$85,000. We found the per diem payments they were receiving from the municipality for contracted work and service were certainly a problem.

But what prompted me to write the letter to the Minister of Community and Social Services at that time was the fact that there was a considerable need for the facility, and that in one weekend, apart from taking in the maximum number of women and their children that they could handle from a late hour on Friday night until the early hours of Monday morning,

they had turned away no fewer than 23 women in that facility. That was in one weekend alone.

I did not receive a response from the previous minister to the letter I sent in February and I wrote to you on June 23, 1981, and enclosed a copy of the original letter. You did get back to me on August 4, so your response—and I appreciate it—was much quicker than that of the previous minister. You told me you had sent a letter to Mac Carson, the commissioner of social services in the Hamilton area.

In his letter to me of September 28, 1981, Mr. Carson said simply, "The Honourable Frank Drea has asked me to investigate your concerns about Hope Haven and the number of women and children who cannot be housed at this facility." It goes on to say: "There does appear to be a shortage of this type of crisis bed in our region. Mission services have recently added nine beds to the community complement and this has relieved the situation somewhat. More beds are likely going to be needed however." It also said there were no definite plans for expansion at that time at Hope Haven, but they did wish to develop another home. They had been asked to seek regional assistance via an application for a regional grant.

I had written as well to the then Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Walker) because I wondered, inasmuch as this particular haven dealt with any women who had been abused and their children but concentrated on those cases that were a result of alcoholic abuse, whether there was some possibility of additional funding as well through his ministry.

He wrote back to me on December 18 last: "I am writing to you in regard to your question about funding sources for homes for victims of alcohol-related family violence. I am not aware of any provincial government funding sources in addition to the per diem funding for hostels under general welfare assistance which the province cost-shares with the municipality. I understand, however, that the Ministry of Community and Social Services is conducting a review of policy with respect to residential facilities for adults. Homes for battered wives and their children are included in this review." He goes on to discuss some sources I might look at for assistance and the particular concerns they have.

I also note that the federal health, welfare and social affairs committee has been examining the issue of wife battering in our communities. It is obvious from the information they have been obtaining that we have got a very serious

problem. It is also obvious that we simply do not have adequate facilities available.

Today I had the privilege of attending the opening of an addition to Inasmuch House on Emerald Avenue South in Hamilton. It is one of only three facilities in our community that really deals with this problem. It is encouraging to see the work they are doing and the expansion there. I think that is a good move. I know the Native Women's Centre deals with these kinds of cases as well.

I also know the situation at Hope Haven Homes has not improved. As a matter of fact, it is probably worse. I raised it with the minister, and in the letter I initially wrote a year ago, in that one weekend they had to turn away 23 women. In talking to the people at Hope Haven, I found out that weekend has been bettered. In one particular weekend they had to turn away 37 women from the home in the east end of Hamilton. It is obvious we have a serious problem and that seems to be coming up with most of the social agencies in our communities as well.

In the federal committee that has been dealing with this matter, almost all witnesses who testified before the committee lamented over the fact there are not enough transition houses and those which do exist are chronically underfunded. I suspect some people will find they probably have not got a transition house in their riding. Certainly for the volume we are now starting to run into in the city of Hamilton, the facilities for the three, at least on certain occasions, are not adequate for the problems that are surfacing.

In talking to some of the social workers in our community I also know they see and expect to see a rise in this kind of problem as the economic situation gets tougher. It is one of the areas that is of real concern and one where there is an inadequacy in terms of available facilities.

The seriousness of the problem and what is going on should be put on the record here. The minister should be encouraged. I have no reason to believe he is not somewhat sympathetic to the issue I am raising and the needs in this area. We should be well aware that in every part of this country women of all ages, occupations and economic circumstances are being beaten by either their husbands or their common law partners. Wife battering knows no general, geographical, economic or cultural boundaries. Almost anybody in our communities can be in this position.

I want to deal with a couple of the myths that

have been exploded in a very good study by the Social Planning and Research Council in Hamilton. It goes back to November 1980 but they have since done some additional backup work to that study. When we find out, as the federal committee has found out, that 500,000 Canada women, or one in 10 of those married or living common law, were battered by the partners they lived with, we get some idea of the magnitude of the problem we are facing.

Wife battering frequently results in serious injury or miscarriage or permanent disability or death. Although we cannot tie it in directly, 20 per cent of all Canadian homicides are the result of one spouse killing the other and almost all of these in our communities were wives murdered by their husbands. Wife beating is rarely a one-time occurrence. One third of the women surveyed in a federal study were beaten weekly or daily. Forty per cent of the wife assaults, according to their study, were during the time of the woman's first pregnancy. Beatings can be precipitated by anything, whether it be financial worries, pregnancy or a phone call from a friend. Almost any situation could trigger a beating.

The most common report given by battered wives following a beating is that their husbands are trying to exercise complete control over their lives.

Another thing we have to consider when we are looking at the adequacy of the facilities is the effect on children. Children who witness wife beating are, in some cases, scarred forever.

According to the federal study, some 40 to 60 per cent of men who assaulted their wives witnessed assaults in their families of origin; either they were the victims of child abuse or they witnessed their fathers beating their mothers.

According to another study, 60 per cent of the women who saw physical abuse between their parents became battered wives themselves. They grew up to see violence as normal behaviour and did not protest.

I think one of our problems is in failing, up until now, to really come to grips with the kind of problem that is there and looking at the things that might be done.

10 p.m.

Why is the crime so pervasive, as the studies ask? The severity of the crime is frequently obscured by comments that allow us to ignore it, that indicate family violence or domestic disputes are things we really do not want to get involved in or that it is a problem that is not

necessarily to be taken too seriously. But I think that it has to be recognized for what it is: abuse of women.

Because the family is seen as a private institution, many outsiders and indeed, as some of the studies show, many of the service organizations for a long while were really reluctant to get involved in this area of concern.

The institutions that deal with wife battering—legal, medical and the social services—are still largely bound up in the image of the traditional family—breadwinner father, homemaker mother and their children—even though only 20 per cent of Canadian families conform to this mould. Consequently, the primary goal is all too often reconciliation of the couple, we do not deny the importance of that, rather than the protection of the woman from a violent spouse.

Many police jurisdictions, and I noticed it on one of the slide shows they were showing today at Inasmuch House, have implicit or explicit policies to screen out domestic occurrences when they are investigating them. Fewer than half of the reported wife assault calls get a police response. This policy really denies a fundamental function of the law: to protect the safety of the person who may be involved.

When the police do arrive on the scene, and there was a good slide presentation on this as well today at Inasmuch House, they usually attempt to cool things down and then leave the situation. According to the workers I have talked to, this has a tendency to tell the woman that her physical safety is not necessarily the primary concern.

Compounded by this inaction is the fact that in 100,000 cases of assaults against Canadian women, only 1.8 per cent of the men were convicted. This suggests that the criminal justice system will not do anything about the problem.

Mr. Roy: He is out of order.

Mr. Mackenzie: I don't think I am out of order. I am dealing with a very important area that does come under the minister's jurisdiction.

The question is asked, and it is asked by workers in the minister's own ministry, as to why the women do not leave. Battered wives in most cases have no place to go, no protection from their husbands, no money to live on and little access to professional help.

I have talked to some of them in my own community, and I have talked to some of them when I visited the transition houses. Some of the questions they raised were: "Well, who can we talk to? We have come here finally because

there is a service available here." In some cases they really need somebody to talk to. "Who do we go to? Who is going to give us help? If we walk out or if we leave, or if we run from a violent person, what can we expect? What are we going to do with our kids? Where are we going to stay? What kind of help is there for us?"

In January 1980, the federal study showed that 45 per cent of the Canadian population lived in areas without access to a transition house or a shelter that would accept battered women. We have three of them, as I said, in the Hamilton area but there are days when we cannot begin to cope with the kind of demand placed on them.

As the federal study also showed, where houses do exist they are frequently overcrowded. That is a point I have made; on some weekends, not all, in our area they must turn away more women and children than they can accept. I do not know how many weekends they have kept records for, but the two that I mentioned—23 women on the one weekend a year ago, and some 37 women on one weekend more recently—indicate the potential for a real tragedy in that so many women were turned away from that particular transition house.

To rent an apartment, a woman must have money for a deposit. To apply for welfare, assuming that she is eligible, she must have an independent address. In addition to being homeless, the battered woman who leaves her husband or partner generally finds herself, as I said, in really serious financial straits.

I do not know what can be done. There are a number of recommendations that I am not going to go into here this evening. There are a number of what I thought were good recommendations in the report that was done by the social planning and research council support services network for battered women in the Hamilton area. I am sure your ministry has seen this. They made about eight or nine specific recommendations that are probably useful. I do not doubt that your ministry has looked at them.

I guess my real concern in this matter is that we have the potential for some real tragedy. I think we have seen it in some cases. We have a growing problem. We have an inadequacy of facilities and we are relatively new in terms of the art of deciding how we are going to deal with this problem and what are the best answers.

We are breaking down some of the myths that have existed for a long while about whether to really get involved in family disputes like this. I

think it is an area of enough concern that it should be one of the priorities in your ministry.

I hope, in looking at the supplementary estimates, that you are going to be able to give us some assurance that this is an area where you are going to put additional funding and staff and that you are going to try to come up with some positive recommendations for dealing with the specific problem so we can deal with it in a major way in the very near future.

I am asking for some major attention to this problem, rather than it being something that we study and make small adjustments to along the way as the problem becomes severe. I do not think we can wait that long. I think it is one area that is of some concern. There is not enough service available. That should be one of the priorities of your ministry, and I would be appreciative of your comments on it or if you could tell me what plans you might have in this field.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Very succinctly, there is no question that there is a shortfall of service capability. Indeed, the shortfall is not necessarily only in terms of physical accommodation but also even in terms of program development, very real counselling and so forth, because while there may be a shelter for battered wives they cannot remain indefinitely in a shelter.

There has to be a program either by referral or purchase of service or perhaps even by transfer, because that person has to be given the opportunity of freedom of choice of whether she wants to go back to her spouse. I do not think we should be telling her whether she should go back to her spouse. That is her own decision, as is setting up terms and conditions as to whether she goes back to her spouse.

Having been married for a while, I do not think I would like to give any conditions on that, but—

Mr. Mackenzie: Court orders also mean nothing in many cases.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Well, I am not so sure. I think we have to look at things in terms of human nature. I have been around, and I am as outraged as you at certain things in terms of the personal relationships. I think we have to look at that. But that may be beyond all of us. It has been beyond all of us since the very beginning. However, once the freedom of choice has been made that the victim of the spouse wants to be in conventional society without that victimization, then obviously there has to be a re-entry program and what have you.

I agree with you that it is a priority. It is under review both from the hostel or residential stage as well as from the program stage. I think we will have the review of the mechanical funding of the hostel or residential component completed first. The program one will take a little bit longer. I want them both completed this year, because we are either going to begin attacking the priority in this area and making a real dent in the problem or, quite frankly, we had better start all over again with another program.

Maybe these types of houses are not really the answer, but I think that we can blend in with what is there now. As I say, I have insisted all along that it must be a priority. While it does not represent a large number of people, it does represent the most vulnerable people in our society and, therefore, in social services. It is not a notorious or flamboyant type of program.

10:10 p.m.

Maybe I live in a different world—I have never been able to understand it—but there is still a bit of a stigma about the woman who leaves her partner, that somehow, even if she was assaulted and pummelled and even seriously injured, she must have contributed a part to it. I have never understood why somebody who is very badly assaulted and who did nothing should be blamed for the fact that the person who did the assault chose her. I have never really been able to understand that, but it is quite true that it is there.

There is a start of a form of transition house, although not under that name, in my own riding. I have had to assist them in getting rezoning. Many of these things have come up.

I do want to emphasize to the honourable member I am impressed with the remarks he made tonight. I do appreciate he took the time to prepare them and to read them into the record. I certainly hope he might get somebody in Ottawa to ask a very penetrating question on that federal report because, if they have looked at it, why do they not come in for some sharing on the nonresidential portion? Bearing in mind what the federal minister told me—not on this, but on everything in general—there is not one new red cent, not one new program, not one dollar for anything new under the Canada assistance plan. We hope she might change her mind.

In any event, we will be tabling those reports and I would appreciate any further dialogue, either verbal, in my longer estimates, or in writing on this subject. I think you are to be commended for bringing it up in such a forth-

right, fair, honest and candid manner at this time.

Mr. Mackenzie: If I can just make one very brief response, I do appreciate the minister's comments because I think this is an area in which we cannot be involved in politics or play games. That includes, as well, the question of pointing out—and I agree, and I am as angry as the minister is—that the defence cannot be what the feds are or are not doing.

I may just have taken the minister's remarks a little bit out of context. I think it may be more of a major problem than he thinks. He mentioned the small number of people who are really involved. If the federal study is accurate and there are half a million, or one in 10 Canadian women who have suffered, obviously there are degrees to which they have suffered the beatings, but it would seem to me that it is a major problem. It is because of that, the connection with kids and the fact that you are dealing with some of the traditional "don't talk about it" perceptions in terms of family relationships, that I think it takes on a major concern.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am not trying to diminish it, but I am not talking about the numbers and the dimension of the program; what I am talking about is those who actually have to take refuge in terms of a general welfare assistance count or family benefits, the disabled and so forth. It is not a major one. But in saying that, I wanted to point out to you that, notwithstanding the numbers, it is a priority.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, I have been very interested in this discussion that has been going on in the last few minutes or so on the question of battered spouses. I do appreciate the minister's compassion for the victims as well as his knowledge of the seriousness of the problem and his recognition that it does require a whole series of programs, that you do not just provide an interval house and then hope the situation will solve itself.

You need a whole battery of additional services: counselling, relocation, rehabilitation; and even programs such as were written up in today's *Globe and Mail* where the batterer, that is the person who is doing the battering, is given assistance to change his ways, shall we say. The story in the *Globe and Mail* indicated that there are a considerable number of men who are not proud they batter their wives, but it is a difficult thing to overcome in some situations. They need counselling.

The seriousness of the problem is indicated

by the fact that interval or transition houses are springing up in every municipality—in fact, in almost every riding. I think most of us are aware groups of women have banded together to provide this shelter for battered wives and are having problems with funding.

I think the rate provided under the hostel grants is \$17 a day, which is really inadequate in big cities and probably even in smaller ones because to run an interval house is a highly labour intensive activity. This is another case where we run into the 20 per cent municipal barrier because many municipalities do not want to put up the 20 per cent to have a hostel or interval house. I am afraid the educational process of the need for such interval houses is slow in the smaller municipalities.

This might be an area where the ministry could consider 100 per cent funding up to a certain per diem rate to encourage the establishment of interval houses. I am sure the minister is aware the federal government has a standing committee studying the whole question of spouse battering and the programs that are needed.

Certainly, there are many areas under provincial jurisdiction in dealing with this problem. Perhaps we should consider an all-party committee of this House to go into the problem in depth and get ideas for the kind of new programs the minister was forecasting as being needed, rather than just have the studies done within his ministry.

I do not know whether the minister is aware I have put on the Order Paper a resolution calling for such an all-party committee to study ways of dealing with violence in the family. In particular, my resolution calls for the study of "(1) preventive educational programs; (2) the establishment and funding of transitional houses; (3) the adequacy of health, welfare and counselling services available to the victims of family violence; and (4) the need for revised legislation and for changes in police and court procedures to protect battered spouses."

I would like to ask the minister if he has given any consideration to urging the government to set up a select committee or to refer this matter to a standing committee for some public hearings on the question before we finalize the programs we are going to have to put in place to deal with this problem.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think it would be premature to have an opinion on that until those two reviews are in. We want to see what the problem is. If there is a clearly defined problem that can be remedied within the existing structure, fine. I do not think you would need what you are

asking for. I think that would be an impediment, even a delay. On the other hand, if there are certain long-range concerns that the present system in any way, shape or form is not adequate, then I think there can be consideration given to a much further and broader study.

I have some feelings; there is no question about it. I thank you for your comments but I think the jury is still out and before I commit myself I would like to see where we are.

Ms. Bryden: I have a question in another area. At the present time, the legislation for elderly persons' centres provides for a maximum grant, I believe, of \$15,000.

The Deputy Chairman: I want to make sure the honourable member is tying this in to the supplementary estimates we are considering tonight.

Ms. Bryden: I think it comes under adult social services: transfer payments, senior citizens, operating. The elderly persons' centres are community facilities which provide recreational and stimulating programs—

The Deputy Chairman: The member may not be aware that they are not included in the estimates we are discussing tonight.

10:20 p.m.

Ms. Bryden: I will have to bring that up when the regular estimates come forward.

The Deputy Chairman: Is there any other point you had to raise with regard to the supplementary estimates?

Ms. Bryden: Are homemaker services included in this?

The Deputy Chairman: No, homemaker services are not applicable.

Vote 2902 agreed to.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF TREASURY AND ECONOMICS (concluded)

On vote 904, economic policy program; item 2, regional economic development:

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I thought we were almost finished the other night except for a technical point. There may be other speakers, but I am not aware of it.

Vote 904 agreed to.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

On vote 2604, provincial roads program; item

2, design; item 3, capital and construction; item 4, maintenance:

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Chairman, I would like at least a brief explanation of why this ministry needs \$14.6 million. I can tell the minister where he can spend four or five times that much, but obviously his priorities might not be in line with mine. I would just like some idea of what it is for.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Chairman, I do not think the member's priorities would be very much different from mine. We think alike on a lot of things when we get down to building roads. The \$14.6 million we are asking the Legislature to approve for the ministry as supplementary estimates this year is needed in three areas.

A year ago, under the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, my ministry was given an additional \$25 million to advance certain construction projects. That money was for the actual construction work and did not include money for design or for property. Approximately half of this \$14.6 million is for advancing the design work and property acquisition so the ministry will have the design completed and the property acquired to carry out the auxiliary program under BILD.

The other \$7.5 million this year is for additional winter maintenance. We have been running our maintenance budget on the provincial roads program very close and this winter with the heavy snowstorms an additional amount of overtime on our snow-ploughing crews that we had not experienced for the last two or three years has caused our winter maintenance budget to be over this amount of \$7.5 million. That is what that is for, strictly dealing with the elements we have had to deal with.

Mr. Stokes: Thank you for that explanation and thank you for your indulgence, Mr. Chairman. Now that I know what it is, I can talk about it.

The amount of money the ministry is spending for design obviously will include some of the projects that went to tender last fall, early this spring and one the minister is announcing today. It deals specifically with the design for that section of Highway 11 from the junction of Highway 584 over towards Longlac. That has been long awaited. I want to say on behalf of all of the users in the Geraldton-Longlac area and those who travel Highway 11 on a regular basis that they are certainly appreciative of the fact the minister is moving on that section.

Part of the design money being asked for in

vote 2604, item 2, is for the design of a contract on Highway 584 from Geraldton up to Nakina. That has been a turkey trail for far too long. We have had many broken automobiles as a result of that; broken suspensions, broken mufflers and everything else. The minister, in co-operation with the Ministry of Northern Affairs, is finally addressing himself to that. I hope by this time next year we will have a road we can all be proud of.

The other one I want to mention is the design on what used to be called tertiary road 800. It is now a numbered highway. I believe it is Highway 827. It used to be called the Spruce River road from Thunder Bay up to Armstrong. I travelled on that road just last Wednesday. I spent my March break travelling on some of those things we call highways up there. It is in terrible shape. I know you have just let a contract for upgrading the most dangerous section of that road and the bridge. All of the truckers, all of the jobbers and all of the people from Gull Bay and Armstrong are appreciative of the work you are doing there.

One final comment: I hope part of this design money will go to look at the possibilities of—I know it is much too expensive to expect to have the kind of roads they have in Manitoba with double lanes, but if you will look at this—widening and paving the shoulders so people who move at the posted rate of speed can get by heavy vehicles and slow moving recreational vehicles. I know your regional director is of one mind with me in that any time we do any additional construction the widening and paving of the shoulders should be included so they can act in place of and be installed much cheaper in many cases than passing lanes.

Those are the things we would like to see done. I hope some of this design money will be dedicated for those purposes.

The Deputy Chairman: I am trying to get a feel for the number who are going to be raising questions, because we might be able to have a vote on this.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Chairman, I would like to mention some matters about design. I would like to bring to the attention of the minister a design matter on Highway 3 that passes through my riding, and especially the old railway bridge just west of Blenheim. I guess this bridge goes back to the old Pere Marquette Railway, which had a line from Chatham down to Erieau and the line was largely at grade level or perhaps slightly below grade level.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Chairman, that is included in the 1982 program. It is not in the 1981, but I can assure the honourable member it is included in the 1982 program.

Mr. McGuigan: I am very glad to hear that, but I am questioning the design of it. I am very glad to hear it is in the program. We have been waiting for it for a long time.

Hon. Mr. Snow: It was designed in 1980.

Mr. McGuigan: I would like you to give consideration to redesigning it, although I would not like to see the project delayed in any way.

Hon. Mr. Snow: That will delay it until 1985.

Mr. McGuigan: With the experts you have at your command and with the good programs you have, I am sure you have the ability to do this. I have very few complaints about the highways that pass through my riding. They are kept in very good shape, so I know you have the ability to do this rather quickly if you so decided.

At the westerly entrance to Blenheim, there is

an incline going up quite a bit above grade in order to pass over the underpass. Many farm tractors use that incline. They come up there, usually with enough speed to gain the top of the crest and then they find themselves declining, going down a slide into the town of Blenheim.

It does present a certain safety problem because, if you know those vehicles, while they often have what is considered adequate braking power on them, they do not have the braking power of a truck or a semi-trailer. There is a bit of a problem there. It is a concern to some of the residents because they and their children use that bridge as a walkway since there are very poor sidewalks in the area. We would appreciate your people taking a look at the design but, of course, we would not like to see you delay that application.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wells, the committee of supply reported certain resolutions.

The House adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

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Ontario, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 16

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Friday, April 2, 1982

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Friday, April 2, 1982

The House met at 10:02 a.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

SALE OF ONTARIO WINE

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I rise with some very interesting news about a world-class sale. I take great pleasure today in being able to inform honourable members of another export breakthrough for Ontario industry.

Following talks initiated last year, when I was the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, an Ontario company has made the first-ever sale of Ontario red wine to the famed wine region of Burgundy in France. Talk about taking coals to Newcastle—not Newcastle, Ontario, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Donald Ziraldo, the president of Inniskillin Wines, near Niagara-on-the-Lake, has informed me that his firm has appointed an agent in the Burgundy region to handle an initial order of 650 cases—that is about 15,000 bottles, I believe—of 1980 Marechal Foch wine, with a further selection of wines to follow. The Inniskillin wine will be distributed throughout France by the famous French House of Chauvenet and to French restaurants by another associated company.

This achievement by Inniskillin is a measure of the success of Ontario wine growers' efforts over many years to produce wines that can compete with the best from Europe. Specifically it justifies the decision by many of them to convert to the hybrid *vitis vinifera* varieties of grapes. This constant search for quality is now literally bearing fruit in the form of export as well as domestic sales.

I am sure honourable members will join me and the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) in expressing our congratulations to Inniskillin and to Niagara wine producers in general on this major sale of Ontario wines. I think it indicates that we have world-class wines. What we see started today is going to continue, with many of the wines ultimately being sold to foreign receivers, particularly to France.

RESIGNATION OF CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, as I am sure the honourable members are very well aware, the Clerk of this House, Mr. Roderick Lewis, has for many years served as the chief election officer for Ontario, as well as having his responsibilities as Clerk of this House. I know we all admire the able manner in which he has executed the very demanding responsibilities of these two positions.

In recent years the tasks associated with the administration of elections, the supervision of electoral guidelines and the implementation of electoral reforms have become increasingly numerous and complex. I would like to inform the House that Mr. Lewis has reached the conclusion that the post of chief election officer requires an incumbent who can make a full-time commitment of both time and effort to the duties of that office. For these reasons, the Clerk has asked to be relieved of the added responsibility of being chief election officer.

I know all honourable members will want to join in recognizing the contribution made by Rod Lewis to the electoral process in Ontario. During his 36 years of involvement in this process—28 of them as chief election officer—he has helped administer no fewer than 10 general elections and many more by-elections. On behalf of the people of Ontario, I believe it is fitting that we in this House this morning be among the first to extend to Mr. Lewis our sincere gratitude and appreciation for a job very well done.

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, today I am also pleased to place before the House the name of Mr. Warren Bailie for consideration as the next chief election officer for Ontario.

Mr. Bailie was appointed assistant chief election officer in 1974, and he has assisted in the administration of three general elections. Well acquainted with the electoral process, he has served as both a provincial returning officer and as a federal returning officer for a combined total of 10 years. Mr. Bailie is therefore fully qualified to undertake the responsibilities which

have been so ably administered by his distinguished predecessor.

I am very pleased, Mr. Speaker, to indicate to you and members of the House that Mr. Bailie and his family are here in the gallery today. He is the one wearing the white carnation.

Mr. Nixon: A nice neutral colour.

Hon. Mr. Wells: A very perceptive comment.

At this time, with the concurrence of the House, Mr. Speaker, while we are making this statement, I also wish to put a motion to the House.

Hon. Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Nixon, that an humble address be presented to the Lieutenant Governor in Council as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor in Council:

"We, her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, request the appointment of Warren Robert Bailie as chief election officer for the province of Ontario, as provided in section 3 of the Election Act, RSO 1980, chapter 133, and that the address be engrossed and presented to the Lieutenant Governor in Council by Mr. Speaker."

Motion agreed to.

10:10 a.m.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to have been asked to second the resolution for an address to the Lieutenant Governor which we trust will lead to the appointment of Mr. Bailie as our chief electoral officer.

Mr. Bailie has been the assistant to the previous chief electoral officer for a number of years. The fact that the elections have gone as smoothly as they have, as far as the organization is concerned, is testimony to his efficiency. I hope, however, that changing the headship in this office might have some salutary effect on the results. Perhaps we will have to work even harder than we have in the past in that connection.

After congratulating Mr. Bailie and welcoming him to this high responsibility, which is one of the very highest in the democratic system, I also want to express our regard for his predecessor, who is the present chief electoral officer until such time as His Honour acts on our request.

Having been elected seven times in the province myself, I can assure the House that on no occasion that I can recall has anything been observed but the very smooth flow of informa-

tion from the office of the chief electoral officer.

Perhaps I might be permitted to say that Mr. Lewis's father was also the chief electoral officer for a number of years, going back to approximately 1936. The former member for Brant, my father, was elected 12 times and got an acclamation once during that period. The only election he recalled as being a difficult one was that of 1943, a date graven in the minds of my friends opposite.

It was an election held in wartime, when it was necessary for the chief electoral officer to gather the electoral votes of our men and women serving in all parts of the globe. It was also his responsibility, at least to some extent, to see that the votes were properly distributed into the constituencies across the province. In spite of the fact that this was done very carefully, the government changed hands.

I do not want the members to misunderstand my comments, because the traditions of the Lewises, father and son, in administering our elections are completely impeccable. Beyond that, they are efficient; so that those of us who are in the political arena can take for granted that the election procedures are going to be completely fair and public. It is an arrangement to which we can all point with pride in the past as, I trust, we shall in the future.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I wish to join the government House leader (Mr. Wells) and the House leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. Nixon) in paying tribute to Mr. Lewis for the dedicated way in which he has served this assembly and the people of Ontario for so many years.

When I was in your position, Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of reminding members of the House of the long service Mr. Lewis has provided to us and the people of Ontario. He was made the assistant clerk of this House in December 1946 and served in that capacity up to December 1954, and became the Clerk in January 1955. He was assistant chief election officer from October 1951 to December 1954, and became the chief election officer in this province on January 1, 1955.

No matter how one wants to express it, it has to be something of a record for anyone to have been so dedicated to the service of the people of Ontario for such a long time. I want to join the government House leader and the House leader of the Liberal Party in paying tribute to the service given us by Mr. Lewis.

I also wish to welcome Mr. Warren Bailie to

the position of chief election officer. As the former Speaker, I had an opportunity to view at first hand the kind of service Mr. Bailie has given all of us as assistant chief election officer.

Something not generally known by most members of this House, and by very few members of the public, is the fact that Mr. Bailie not only has served us well in the democratic process but also has been invited and has taken part as an observer of elections elsewhere, notably Zimbabwe, where he represented Canada to see that the elections there were held in a true democratic fashion.

With a good many jurisdictions in the world trying to set up constitutional democracies, Mr. Bailie has been invited by and has provided excellent service to those people who are coming off military juntas and setting up constitutional democracies for the first time. In that regard, Mr. Bailie has served us well, has represented us well and has contributed mightily to constitutional democracy throughout the free world. For that, we all owe him a great debt of gratitude.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing our good wishes and our thanks to Mr. Lewis for his fine work for this Legislature and this province over many years.

Since it is a day for bouquets, may I also compliment the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Walker) on his stunning breakthrough in selling wine to France. I congratulate him and trust it will be the occasion for a full-scale trade mission with a full complement of Tory ministers and sycophants to go over and drink the first glass of wine in Burgundy. I am told the first order for 650 cases is roughly what they spill over lunch there. However, I join in the minister's enthusiasm.

ORAL QUESTIONS

WHITE FARM EQUIPMENT

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, let me ask the Minister of Industry and Trade a question about the White Farm Equipment takeover, which troubles the members on this side of the House very much.

The government said in the throne speech, or at least in the speech that was written for the Lieutenant Governor, that there would be an expansion of the buy-back program to help save plant closures of foreign subsidiaries. Given the ministry's commitment already of \$5 million in loans and guarantees as well as a substantial federal commitment, why is the minister actively

encouraging a sellout to foreign interests that puts in jeopardy the future of that company and those jobs in this province?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I think this party probably looks upon some foreign ownership a little differently from the way at least some members of the Liberal Party do. We tend to look at performance rather than where the company was born or the nationality of the company. Performance while here is a very important thing.

We do not have this thing against foreign ownership. There are good values that come from foreign ownership, such as management expertise in many cases, technology transfer and certainly capital. This is one case where that situation seems to be the case.

10:20 a.m.

If this could have been achieved with Canadian ownership, there would have been no one happier than ourselves to have that in Canadian ownership. But, as I indicated to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) yesterday, it was impossible for the Canadian side of this to fly. If we could have caused that to happen, we certainly would have, but it just was not going to happen. It is a very complicated deal.

We are satisfied the company is going to stay in Canada. We are satisfied it is going to meet its objectives. The member realizes it has to have 1,200 employees by 1984. It is committed to those objectives. We expect White Canada will continue as a fully functional operation but, more important, 750 or perhaps even as many as 900 employees now will have a chance to get back to work, rather than the company being plunged into bankruptcy, which was the alternative in this situation.

I do not think the member wants to see a bankruptcy here. We certainly did not want to see a bankruptcy. We have tried to rescue this for the past year or so. Fortunately, through the good offices of the federal government and those of our own ministry, we have been able to secure a resolution of the problem. We are satisfied this company is going to continue to function and, better still, upwards of 1,000 people are going to have jobs who would not otherwise have had those jobs.

Mr. Peterson: It is obvious that we on this side of the House also want to save the jobs, not just next week or next month but also three and five years from now, which the minister's position is putting very much in jeopardy in the view of a great number of people in this province.

Why did the minister proceed to make his announcement when he did, at a time when federal approval has not yet been demonstrated? It has not gone through the Foreign Investment Review Agency, and it has not had the approval of the federal department in this area.

The ministry has the resources; it put in \$5 million. The federal government put in \$10 million. Those resources could have been used to keep that ownership here in Canada. It is a world-class product. It is almost a proprietary product. It is a product that has potential for export all across this world. We are now running the risk of losing that technology that was built here in Canada, with Canadian brains and Canadian money.

All of that is being put at risk because the minister has not used the power he has to keep that ownership here in Canadian hands.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Quite the contrary. What we are doing is securing jobs for upwards of 1,000 people. The honourable gentleman seems to have the idea that this company is going to move south. I do not know what has given him that idea. That certainly has not been evident from their performance in the past year.

I have to say to the Leader of the Opposition, if this company were ever to contemplate that, to take steps to abridge the responsibilities they have already undertaken, or at least the concessions they have been provided, they would end up having to pay an awfully big bundle of money. We are probably looking at upwards of \$15 million immediately, plus a great deal of additional costs just to bring that all about. I do not think that is going to happen.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, will the minister table the guarantees for research and development in the future, the guarantees for capital investment in the years to come and the guarantees on jobs that have been agreed to by White?

Hon. Mr. Walker: I think I can do that, Mr. Speaker. If it is possible, I will. The only thing that is holding me back is that we have certain legal obligations under the Foreign Investment Review Act that make it an offence for us to release certain information. But let me assure the honourable member that, to the extent we can within law, we will release whatever information he has been asking for this morning. I hope that is the case, and I would like to give him as much as possible.

Going back to the previous question of the

Leader of the Opposition, I have to say the reason we released the information in the statement yesterday was simply that we wanted to keep our members informed. I met the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) very briefly on Wednesday and mentioned that I anticipated by Thursday we would have some kind of solution to the problem. I indicated to members of this House earlier in the week that I anticipated towards the end of this week, which it now is, that we would have a resolution for it. I am trying to keep members as informed as I possibly can.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I do not see how the minister feels he has much of an armlock on the new American owner when, if the company is allowed to go downhill and it loses its resources, he can simply walk away with the axial-flow patent and the minister will not be able to take anything from him except his bow as he goes across the border.

Why did the minister not insist that the company accept the offer of \$20 million in third-party credit put forward by the government of Canada, which would have allowed the company to continue without a change in ownership, and instead urge and, in fact, almost harass the Canadian owner to give up his 51 per cent share in the company, resulting in the takeover the minister announced yesterday?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, let me answer the second question the member asked first as to why the \$20-million loan offer was rejected. It was rejected by the Canadian partner. It had to be. The Canadian partner is the largest shareholder—

Mr. Nixon: You said it was 50-50 yesterday.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Just a moment. You know better than that.

Mr. Nixon: You announced it.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Wait a minute. The Canadian partner has 50.1 per cent and the American partner has 49.9 per cent. The American partner has a minority share in essence.

Mr. Peterson: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: That is very simply a deviation from what the minister said in the House yesterday. He said it was 50-50. Now he is saying the Canadian partner has a majority interest. That is a very substantial change in position.

I want the minister to stand up and correct the record and admit he did not give us the full facts yesterday, or at least that he is changing them today. This very much changes the play in this situation.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, it is true to say that it is not precisely 50-50. In fact, it is 50.1 per cent.

Mr. Peterson: That is slightly different.

Mr. Nixon: If you don't understand that, you shouldn't be minister.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Listen, there are many times when one can refer rather loosely, as do the newspapers, as do many people in this House—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Just hold it a second. Let us not get carried away with something that would excite the members opposite a little more than it would excite the average person.

Fifty per cent, a half share, was referred to rather loosely from time to time, sure. But the members opposite knew, we knew and everybody who has the capacity to see lightning and to hear thunder knew that the Canadian partner has 50.1 per cent and the American partner has 49.9 per cent. The members opposite know that. Everybody in this House knows that.

Now, let me go to the \$20 million. The rejection of the proposed loan was made by the company. Therefore, the largest number of votes come from the Canadian shareholders.

Mr. Nixon: It was an American veto.

Hon. Mr. Walker: There is no possibility of a veto.

Mr. Peterson: I think you will find that is the case later.

Hon. Mr. Walker: I do not think the Leader of the Opposition will find that is the case.

Having said it was a rejection by a majority Canadian partner in essence who voted that way, I would go on further in reply to the question from the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk to say the reason we think this company will remain in Canada is that it is legally obligated, under its arrangements with the Foreign Investment Review Agency and with Canada and with Ontario, to maintain that employment in Ontario and, indeed, to reach 1,200 by 1983. These are commitments.

If it fails to meet those commitments or if it starts to do something in between, we can simply call our loan and the federal government can call its loan. We can call the guarantees for having breached the essence of the contract. That means immediately the company has to find \$15 million—

Mr. Nixon: There might be nothing left of the

contract, just an empty building when you get to it.

Hon. Mr. Walker: No, I do not think so. I think the honourable member would probably let us know early enough so we could call the \$15-million loan. I do not think there would be any problem that way.

From a practical point of view, it is going to cost this company millions of dollars to even entertain the thought of moving to the United States. White Motor Corp. of the United States has no facilities in the United States to handle the capacity of this operation. It would have to establish a facility and train 1,000 people to be able to do it. It would take some considerable doing. That is not to mention the fact that the Canadian distributor network is very important.

Mr. Peterson: You are so naïve.

Hon. Mr. Walker: To the extent that the member is making those accusations, I think he should be rather careful.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: The minister is inadvertently misleading the House. I want to bring to your attention, sir, that yesterday he referred to the 50-50 split of ownership. In my view, this was a way of softening the blow of selling out what appeared not to be a controlling interest. But I also say to you, sir, that now he is using the other argument, that the split is 50.5 to 49.5, to indicate that it must have been the Canadian shareholder who cancelled the federal loan.

10:30 a.m.

He should be aware the American shareholder has a veto power and it was his veto that stopped the federal loan of \$20 million. That threatened to throw the company into receivership unless the Canadian shareholder accepted his offer of a buyout.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, you may want to check the Hansard records of some of the discussions on this matter just to satisfy yourself that people have not been inadvertently misleading the members of this House.

Mr. Speaker: If I may just comment on that, I think I heard the minister say very clearly that the figures he used today would correct the record of anything said previously.

Mr. Peterson: He should correct the record from the typed statement out of his ministry which I assume was prepared and checked by all of his staff. It is a very significant change in position, Mr. Speaker. Anyone who has a rudimentary understanding of corporate law

knows the difference between a 50 per cent and 50.5 per cent interest in a company and how that affects what goes on.

GAINS PAYMENTS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Provincial Secretary for Social Development. The minister is aware there is very wide support now from a number of bodies to increase the income supplement for elderly single people to at least 60 and possibly 70 per cent of the payment a couple gets.

She is aware the Royal Commission on the Status of Pensions in Ontario, as well as the select committee on pensions' report, which came out yesterday under the chairmanship of one of her members, and the interministerial task force on ageing under her ministry all agree—even the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) mentioned in this House that this was the proper way to deal with these kinds of problems. What is her feeling on the matter and what is she doing in order to increase the income for seniors up to at least 60 and possibly 70 per cent of the married level in this province?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Speaker, of course we are all interested in seeing seniors receive adequate income. I think this government is showing a great deal of leadership in that area. I would certainly hope that the ongoing discussions within the various ministries that have this responsibility will bear fruit within the not too distant future.

Mr. Peterson: The reason I am asking is the minister is showing no leadership in this particular area. Almost every independent group has looked at this question and brought it to her attention, as have the other ministers. The Treasurer has dealt with it, as has the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe). What is her policy? We all recognize there is an emergency in this province as well as the rest of the country at this time. When is she going to act as the secretary in charge of this policy field?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: That is the member's opinion. I do not think it is one shared by everyone. We are showing great leadership in meeting the needs of the seniors in this province, and I think the majority of seniors appreciate that. Things just do not happen as quickly as some of us would perhaps like to see them happen. The direction we are going in is the appropriate one and there are a lot of other people within society who have similar needs.

The whole question of increasing the income

of the seniors is one this government is very concerned about and it is doing a great deal of work in approaching the final solution. It is very difficult to put a date on when those things will be achieved, but certainly the final solution is to make sure everyone is treated with equity. This is what we are attempting to do. There are many needs in this society and we are attempting to meet those needs as quickly as possible.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I do not have my copy of the select committee report with me so I am trying to recall by memory. I think the figure from the most recent Statistics Canada data in November or December 1981 indicated there are in the order of 256,000 citizens of Ontario over the age of 65 who are below the poverty line. Is the minister sufficiently ashamed of that to persuade her colleagues to move on the suggestion that is put forward by the select committee to raise the Gains single rates, or does this continue to be a matter of putting it off and leaving a quarter of a million seniors in a state of poverty?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Speaker, the recommendations are there, they are being considered and a decision will be made as quickly as possible.

Mr. Peterson: It is my opinion, it is the opinion of several of the minister's members who sat on the select committee, it is the opinion, as I said, of the interministerial task force, which is the secretariat that she is in charge of, and a lot of other independent as well as nonindependent people who agree with this position. They also agree it is at a crisis state today in this province.

In view of the fact that moving to 60 per cent of the single rate would cost about another \$50 million, if the minister is looking for money to fund this, she is at present funding seniors' grants in the order of \$300 million that have a bias towards the rich. We are asking for programs that have a bias towards the poor, those people who need it most. If the finite funds are part of the problem, we are suggesting there are ways to solve this problem. Why does she not feel that she has to move immediately in this particular area that everyone acknowledges is a crisis? The question is, when are Birch and Ashe going to be able to see the forest and not the trees?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I think perhaps we will consider accepting the advice of the Leader of the Opposition and cancelling senior citizens'

grants. Is he suggesting that everyone who owns a home is rich? That is exactly what he is saying.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. The minister announced to us yesterday that investigators from his ministry went into the Wilco plant in London, Ontario, on February 24 and discovered a situation of considerable risk and hazard to the workers.

Is the minister aware that in the spring of 1981 there were two workers from Wilco on workmen's compensation suffering from lead poisoning? In the summer of 1981 there was one worker on a compensation claim suffering the effects of lead poisoning and in the fall of 1981 our information is that there were 16 workers on workmen's compensation suffering the effects of lead contamination at Wilco.

Why did it take until February 24 for his occupational health investigator to come into that plant when approximately 19 workers had been on compensation during the previous year?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out yesterday there is a clear need for continued surveillance of this plant and I am determined to do that. I cannot speak for what has happened in the past. I do know what steps are being taken at the present time and I am satisfied with those steps.

In respect to the member's comments on the Workmen's Compensation Board at the resources development committee last night, at which he and I were both in attendance, I spoke to WCB officials about that very point and asked them for a complete report on their end of this particular problem.

Mr. McClellan: I am sure the minister's predecessor remembers, but does the minister remember the failure of the Workmen's Compensation Board to notify the occupational health branch of the risk that Mr. Clifton Grant had been exposed to as an employee of the Scarborough school board, when he was on a compensation claim for asbestos and the Workmen's Compensation Board failed, as it has failed at Wilco, to advise the occupational health and safety branch?

10:40 a.m.

Do members remember the promise of the Minister of Health in 1978 when it happened again that the Workmen's Compensation Board suppressed information about the risk that

workers were subjected to in a plant that had failed to pass it on? He said, "I want to assure members that as a result of this incident I have directed that the entire communications system between the board and my ministry be reviewed in order to ensure there will be no recurrence of this unfortunate and frankly unacceptable course of events." That was November 14, 1978. Why did it happen again in 1981 and 1982?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I was not a member of this Legislature in November 1978, so I am not aware of the circumstances the member is describing.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, in his statement yesterday the minister indicated he would be giving this company until April 16 to fulfil the regulations and would be monitoring the company. In view of the fact that even after the problem was disclosed, the president of the company, a Mr. Grant Wilson, was still blaming the high levels on poor personal hygiene and a whole series of other matters, why has the minister chosen to respond to this flagrant violation of his own regulations with nothing more than a slap on the wrist, rather than choosing to make an example of this company and to prosecute?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I find that question just a little difficult in respect to my comments yesterday because if I could just quote, "... if circumstances warrant it, including partial or total closure of the operation, and depending upon legal advice, prosecution if warranted." I am prepared to take stern measures if stern measures are warranted.

I am aware of Mr. Wilson's statement. I am not accepting his statement at face value; I am determined to find out for myself just exactly what the circumstances are.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I appeal to the minister to consider the points we have been making and ask him if he does not recognize that for almost a year now we have been arguing that the lack of enforcement is the issue that may very well undermine what started out as a good piece of legislation, that is Bill 70, the safety and health legislation. This particular case of the lead poisoning, along with ITT Industries of Canada Ltd. and many others, is a perfect example of the lack of prosecution. Does the minister not recognize that what is being threatened here is the undermining of a very good piece of legislation in the province?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I understand what the honourable member is saying, and I had a

lengthy discussion yesterday with his colleague the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) on that very point. I would like to think we are basically on the same wavelength in this respect, that we are determined to put teeth into that regulation.

OHIP PREMIUMS

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. Since the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) announced his "get tough" policy on the doctors yesterday, I suppose most citizens wish the government would get so tough with them as to give them \$114,000 average net take-home pay.

Since the cost of that is going to be about \$220 million for the first year, give or take a number of million dollars, and since the Premier (Mr. Davis) has this fetish about increasing OHIP premiums, can the Treasurer assure us that he will not put the burden of paying for the doctors' salary enrichment on Ontario's health premium system, which is already the highest in Canada, and which because of the complete failure of the premium assistance part of the premium program is the most regressive and the most unfair to low-income people of all of the means of paying for medicare and medical services in the entire country?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, in the second part of that question dealing with the fairness of OHIP premiums there was a lot of editorial comment that I think is best discussed at a different time. I would say that OHIP premiums are roughly between one fifth and one quarter of the total cost of the health care system, so I do not think one can say they are a heavy penalty.

When we get \$4 to \$5 worth of health care for every \$1 of premium, that is not exactly a bad system. I think most people in Ontario have found it relatively fair and acceptable and I think many organized workers have either all or most of it paid for by their corporations. That is a matter of record, not speculation on our part.

Whether any increase in hospital care, health care, doctors, or any other element of the system gets paid for through premium increases or through general tax levies, obviously is an essential part of my budget process and until I reveal that budget I cannot answer. The only thing I can say is that it has to be paid for by the citizens of Ontario. The federal government has already cut its share of those costs.

Mr. McClellan: We agree it has to be paid for by the taxpayers and we are trying to persuade

the minister that it should be paid for by a fair system of taxation.

Can the minister explain why the premium assistance program, and I am referring to full and partial premium assistance, still remains unavailable to the majority of low-income people in Ontario who are eligible for it? Can he explain how he can possibly contemplate raising OHIP premiums when the premium assistance program, which is designed to make premiums less burdensome on poor people, is in such an obvious shambles with something like five per cent of the eligible partial assistance premium recipients receiving it and about a third of full premium assistance recipients actually receiving it?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I have gone through this kind of debate in estimates a number of times. Certainly, all of us were concerned about the apparent lack of coverage or application for premium assistance by people eligible to receive it. The statistics we had four or five years ago very much indicated the kind of picture the member is describing today.

I would like to get some statistics from my ministry; the Ministry of Health just gave me some here. I understand that two things have happened: first, we appear to have a much higher percentage of eligible people now receiving the benefit and second, our ability to determine that number has obviously not been too accurate in the past. We overestimated it in so far as we could tell, so some of the statistics were probably worse than actual facts in the economy would indicate.

Perhaps while the member is thinking of his next supplementary, I will scan the note I have here.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, the statistical review the Legislature undertook some years ago would indicate above and beyond all else that the government of Ontario had no bloody idea at all about who was getting what within the system. To talk about relativity in these situations today is absolutely ridiculous.

Will the Treasurer undertake to provide to this assembly at the earliest possible time, certainly well in advance of his budget expected some three or four weeks hence, the most up-to-date data he has on exactly how many people are eligible for full and partial premium assistance in this province and what the most recent rates of uptake are?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to get whatever statistics I can for the member. I

have some from the Ministry of Health that say about five per cent of the total population is either temporarily, fully or partially assisted at the present time and about 14 per cent is receiving the free OHIP coverage that comes for all those who are over 65.

10:50 a.m.

I want to say one more thing. The member and I are practising politicians. As we return to our rural ridings on weekends, or more frequently for those with city ridings, we run into just about every kind of problem our constituents encounter. The member perhaps has not been at it as long as I have, but if he goes back through the history, as the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) could, he would recall that in the early 1970s OHIP problems probably covered a large percentage of the kinds of things people heard about. We were changing the system—

Mr. Nixon: We called it a Machiavellian scheme.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, a Machiavellian scheme foisted on us by federal Liberals. A number one bureaucratic or enrolment problem facing the members of the day was the OHIP problem. I suggest to the member that in my riding we get few calls from people wondering about their eligibility for this and I do not hear of it from other ridings either.

Mr. McClellan: Following directly on the question of my colleague the member for Renfrew North, does the Treasurer recall that in 1978 when the select committee was studying this question, the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs provided statistics on the number of people eligible for full premium assistance, which was 487,000, and the number of citizens eligible for partial premium assistance, which was 160,000?

Can he explain why the answer to Order Paper question 248 in the last session was as follows, "The government does not have the means of accurately determining the number of eligible residents"? How could he determine the number in 1978 for the select committee and then tell the House in 1981 that he cannot determine the number of eligible residents, unless he is so embarrassed by the general failure of the premium assistance program in those two categories that he refuses to provide the information to this assembly?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I am intrigued. The member must have his supplementaries written because we really talked about that in

supplementary number one. I dealt with those very issues. I said the statistics we gave a few years back showed a situation worse than we believe it was. Getting that kind of statistic is not easy.

I want to get down to the essential nub of it all. Is anyone in this province refused health care who needs it and who, through any statistical error, did not cover himself? The answer is categorically "no."

ENERGY PRICES

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I had hoped to ask this question on April 1, April Fool's Day, because I thought it was appropriate given what the Treasurer was doing to the people of Ontario by his contribution to higher inflation.

Given that the price of gasoline upon which he bases the new adjustment to the ad valorem tax is higher than current prices of gasoline at the pump, and given that this method of calculation is going to result in a windfall profit on a windfall profit he is already getting to the Ontario Treasury of between \$3.4 million to \$6.7 million, will he admit he has inflated the price of gasoline at the pump unnecessarily, is overcharging the Ontario consumer and is adding to Ontario's inflation?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I will redirect that to the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe), who administers that program.

Mr. Riddell: Whose bright idea was it to bring it in?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mine.

Mr. Riddell: Why don't you answer it?

Mr. Bradley: You run for the leadership and you will get all the blame.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Everybody will have an opportunity to ask questions at the appropriate time.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, the method we use to calculate the median price has been consistent since the ad valorem system went into effect in Ontario last year, which makes it consistent with virtually every other province in Canada.

Early in the month, at the end of the quarter involved, we actually survey a great number of service stations' retail prices. The particular geographical area surveyed is roughly as far north as Barrie, down into the Niagara Peninsula, Kitchener and Oshawa. I think everyone will agree this is the area where the competitive market system is definitely in effect, and very adequately shows a level of pricing that is

probably the lowest in the province. We take the median price from that and that is the price we should be determining for the ad valorem rate.

That was done early in March, as it has been done in each of the preceding quarters. From that we come up with the adjustments in this particular quarter. As I indicated earlier in the week, there were some changes. They were not significant—three tenths of a cent on regular; two tenths of a cent on regular unleaded; three tenths of a cent on premium unleaded—and there is no doubt that when the next quarter comes we will go through the same process all over again.

The system is fair, the system is reasonable and, if anything, it gives the advantage of the very highly competitive market in which we establish a base price.

Mr. T. P. Reid: It is interesting that the Treasurer wishes to live off the avails but slough off the responsibility to the Minister of Revenue.

It was the Treasurer who brought in this iniquitous tax. I would like to redirect my supplementary back to the Treasurer, if I may, and ask him whether he does not believe this kind of tax that he was so upset with Ottawa and Alberta about, is taking money out of the consumers' pockets in terms of gasoline and increasing the rate of inflation? Does he not feel this kind of a setup is even more inflationary than his original proposal, when he is getting a windfall tax of almost \$5 million more than he otherwise would? He is not only taking that money directly out of the consumers' pockets but he is increasing the rate of inflation in Ontario by doing so.

Hon. F. S. Miller: No.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, I would like to go back to the Minister of Revenue, who says the way in which the ad valorem tax has been administered is the hallmark of fairness and consistency. If he would talk to the members for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché) and Kenora (Mr. Bernier), they can prove to him there is a disparity of 25 to 35 cents per gallon in the price of number two gas between southern Ontario and northern Ontario. Will the minister consider removing the ad valorem tax on the users of gasoline north of the French River?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the

member realizes this is tax policy within the purview of the Treasurer.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, in so indicating, I am not trying to pass the question to my colleague at all. I have no problem with it whatever. I tried to indicate to the House a short time ago—obviously I failed—we are not taking the higher prices in the north into account in the ad valorem median price. If we did, the median price we would arrive at would be higher. The examples used by the member are not indicative of the whole north—

Mr. T. P. Reid: Yes, they are.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: They are not; probably only in sparsely populated areas of the north.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The minister is answering a supplementary which was asked by the member for Lake Nipigon. Please continue.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been in northern Ontario on a few occasions and have taken the opportunity to note that in most of the metropolitan areas, such as Sudbury and Thunder Bay—not the remote areas, I acknowledge that—they are very competitive with southern Ontario.

11 a.m.

I appreciate and accept the position that in some of the more remote areas they have a rather captive audience and probably their pricing policy is away from the norm, but I must emphasize that we in this government are more than fair in arriving at a formula that sets this median price. We do not include in the listing the higher-priced outlets in the north. The base price established for regular gasoline in this quarter was 33 cents per litre. To that we added the ad valorem tax of 6.6 cents to arrive at the price.

If a base price in the north might be 45 cents a litre, for example—

Mr. Stokes: It is 48 cents.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Okay; 48 cents a litre would mean it would be about 41 or 42 cents net. We do not take that into consideration. If we did, the median price would have been higher and the ad valorem rate would have been higher. I suggest we are already giving the advantage of the lower median price to these higher outlets in the north.

If there is anybody to get after, the member should be contacting the federal government

and the oil companies, expressing on behalf of his constituents disapproval of the pricing policy that seems to be gouging his constituents, and I agree with him.

USE OF STRIKEBREAKERS

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Labour. Is the minister not concerned about the role of some security firms in labour activities in Ontario, such as the recent example of an agent provocateur infiltrating a picket line at Automotive Hardware? Is the minister prepared to undertake an independent investigation into these kinds of activities?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is correct; I am concerned. I am aware of the—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Just ignore the interjections and answer the question, please.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I think members will know that remedies are available under both the Labour Relations Act and the Criminal Code.

The Labour Relations Act prohibits an employer from interfering directly or indirectly with the formation, selection or administration of a trade union or the representation employed by a trade union. I would think a deliberate attempt to infiltrate or disrupt trade union activities would be included in the type of conduct prohibited by the act.

Under the Criminal Code, it is a criminal conspiracy for two or more persons to act in concert with the intention of contravening federal or provincial legislation. Over the past couple of years there have been several cases where prosecutions have been brought under the Criminal Code against employers involved in activities relating to trade union organization or collective bargaining negotiations.

In a very recent appeal to the Ontario Court of Appeal, the court increased the fine against an employer found to have been guilty of a conspiracy of this sort in the context of a labour dispute. The fine imposed by the court initially was \$25,000, I believe, and then it was increased to \$100,000. That indicates the very serious view the judiciary takes in matters of this sort.

I would therefore conclude that there are some very substantial deterrents to this type of activity in the existing law.

Mr. Mackenzie: I did not hear the minister say he was prepared to conduct an investigation as such. Is the minister aware of the kind of

services being offered by one such firm in Ontario, Securicor? I will quote two examples of the services they are offering to their clients in a letter that went to one firm in Hamilton recently.

"Whether we deploy one man as a security guard or 100 men to avert a volatile labour situation, our degree of commitment is the same." That is only part of the service being offered.

Probably more to the point, in industrial injury investigations dealing with the Workmen's Compensation Board, the company's brochure outlines the following:

"Objective: To determine if employees are fraudulently receiving workmen's compensation or sick benefits.

"Method: One investigator attends at the subject's address and takes up a position of surveillance. The investigator photographs the subject, with emphasis on the subject's injuries or restrictive movements. If there is a lack of movement or activity on the part of the subject, then the investigator can enter the subject's residence and verify the necessary information in that manner."

Those are just two of many services offered by this firm.

Does this kind of situation not concern the minister, and is he prepared to look into this matter in detail?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am afraid to use the same word my colleague just used. Yes, certainly it does concern me. If the honourable member will send me copies of the letters he has, I will be happy to look into the matter.

AUTOMOTIVE HARDWARE DISPUTE

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Labour. The minister may be aware of the strike at Automotive Hardware Ltd. in my constituency. This strike is now in its seventh month and involves 425 employees.

The stumbling block between the two parties involves a conflict over administrative clauses in the new contract which has led to a hearing before the Ontario Labour Relations Board this afternoon. This could jeopardize the success of those current negotiations.

Can the minister inform the House whether there is any proper and useful action his ministry could take that would resolve this conflict between these promising negotiations and the labour board meeting this afternoon, which could be divisive? Can the minister give us a complete update as to the current situation?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I cannot ask the Ontario Labour Relations Board to postpone a hearing. I understand that either party can ask for that and, if I am not mistaken, earlier this week the union involved did ask for the postponement of a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 31, at 1 p.m., and permission was granted in that case.

It is true there was another meeting scheduled for 9:30 this morning. However, if I could go back just a bit, this old dispute has been very discouraging and has dragged on much too long. There have been complications such as those related to the question asked a few minutes ago by the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie). Through the efforts of Mr. Illing, the director of conciliation and mediation for the Ministry of Labour, the parties came back to the negotiating table this week and since then have been negotiating almost around the clock.

I have been in touch with Mr. Illing on almost a daily basis, and I received a report earlier this week that said, "On Tuesday, March 30, considerable progress was made for the first time." Then a later report indicated that on Wednesday things fell apart a bit, and that was the reason the request was made to the Ontario Labour Relations Board to postpone the hearing.

As of 9:45 this morning, when I was talking to Mr. Illing again, he stated that they had met until two o'clock this morning. He felt "some progress was made," but at the time of the adjournment it was his judgement that a settlement could not be reached before the commencement of the proceedings before the labour relations board, scheduled for 9:30 this morning.

Mr. Illing has asked the parties to resume bargaining this morning at 10 o'clock and has requested them to instruct their solicitors to inform the board's vice-chairman. In other words, the meeting with the labour relations board could well be postponed again so that the negotiations can continue today and over the weekend and, hopefully, some resolution can be reached. There have been encouraging signs, then discouraging signs at the moment; some progress, though, has been made.

Mr. Kolyn: Have the monetary aspects of the new contract been settled yet?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: To the best of my knowledge, no.

11:10 a.m.

ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. As he travels across this province getting himself known in the farm community, has he sensed the tremendous concerns that farmers have in not knowing what to produce, with the bottom having fallen out of the market on some of the major cash crops, very unpredictable markets for other cash crops and red meats, and the high interest rates compounding the already high input costs?

In view of the desperate need by farmers for low-interest loans to operate their businesses with spring planting being only a few weeks away, and in view of the very serious concerns that have been expressed by Ontario farmers with the farm adjustment assistance program—such concerns as the recalling of the application forms, the reissuing of new forms, the long delays that there seem to be before the forms ever get to Toronto—will he not amend this program to simplify the process and to make deferred interest and new lines of credit eligible for interest assistance?

Does it make any sense to deny a farmer this subsidy after having determined that indeed he is in financial difficulty?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, that is a fairly lengthy and involved question, and I apologize in advance if my answer proves to be lengthy.

First of all, in the six and a half weeks or so that I have been in the portfolio and in the travelling I have done, certainly I have found concerns about the uncertainties—

Mr. Conway: The agriculture representatives are your boys, I hear.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: If the member would like to ask me a question about that, I wish he would. I have certain things I would like to read into the record to answer that.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections, please.

Mr. Conway: They are your delegates.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: If you had any guts, you would ask the question; but you don't, so you won't.

Mr. Conway: Just don't make Paul Martin's mistake.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Which one? Certainly there is concern about certain commodity prices, although as the member will know, there have been glimmers of hope more recently with

respect to the prices of red meats in the past two or three weeks and some indications that there may be some longer-term improvement there.

I have found, quite frankly, with the groups whom I have met as recently as Monday and Tuesday of this week, that they are quite pleased the government has made the kind of changes it did with respect to the farm adjustment assistance program.

The member is suggesting in his question that the processing time is inordinately long. I have to tell him that the time from application to receipt in Toronto, once it has begun, with the ones we have seen to date, is averaging about two weeks once they actually apply.

To be sure, there are a number of farmers who picked up the forms some time ago and had not applied until the last few weeks because they did not have their 1981 results yet, based on which they could then indicate what their 1982 plan is and which of the three options they wished to apply for.

I was very pleased with a meeting I had in Ottawa on Monday with the Minister of Agriculture of Canada—very pleased in this respect—

Mr. Nixon: He is a fine fellow.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I must say I was impressed. I will say that publicly; I was impressed. It was our first meeting.

I was somewhat encouraged by the comments he had to offer with respect to his plans for the Farm Credit Corp. As of that date, he had not had final reading of his legislation. By good fortune, the very next day he did get final reading in the Commons and the bill was sent immediately to the Senate with the hope that by the end of the week it could be through the Senate and sent to Government House for the Governor General's signature.

I took away from that meeting a reaffirmation of the federal government's intention that it, along with the banks, will be the prime mover in the area of long-term credit. I indicated to Mr. Whelan that this being the case, it was our intention that our programs in this province, whether the farm adjustment assistance program for 1982 or the beginning farmer assistance program we are working on now, would be complementary to anything the federal government is going to do rather than trying to compete with it in those various fields.

I am pleased to tell the member that the takeup on the farm adjustment assistance program is picking up considerably. The case meetings being held around the province now are dealing with about 100 cases a week. We

have received close to 200 applications now in the ministry, of which, as of yesterday, slightly more than 100 have been approved. It seems to me the program is beginning to take hold.

Mr. Riddell: I wonder whether the minister would consider making the two parts of the program I brought to his attention, the deferred interest and the new lines of credit, available for the interest assistance as well.

I also want to ask, inasmuch as he is satisfied with the length of time it is taking to process the forms, whether he can tell me why the farmers are being told by the bank that there will be a four- to eight-week delay after they apply for the program before their applications are actually sent to Toronto for approval.

In other words, the local case committee approves a loan application, which for some reason has to go to the regional bank, where it sits around for a period of time, then it comes back to the local case committee and finally goes to Toronto for approval.

Why in the world do these loan applications have to go to the regional bank if the local case committee has already done the work and has given its blessing?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: To the best of my knowledge, once it has cleared the local case committee, there is no reason for that. As the member knows, there are about 800 branches of the chartered banks along with the branches of the three credit unions—now four, since I signed an order in council yesterday for the Sydenham credit union to join the program; the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock) will be interested in that—along with whatever trust companies may choose to go into the program. All these branches, the managers and the loan managers are involved.

I can only repeat to the member what I believe my staff has told him before, and I have certainly indicated it to individual farmers: If they hear of this kind of thing, they should let us know, and we will make darned certain within hours that the manager knows where he is going wrong. We want to encourage all farmers who have any doubts or concerns at all to approach us through the agricultural representatives so we can make sure the program is working as effectively as we intend it to.

FUNDING FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Mr. Grande: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education in regard to the decision she has made to eliminate the grants

for continuing education on credit courses as of September 1982.

Now that the minister has admitted she is going to withdraw provincial funding from all noncredit continuing education programs in the province, will she tell the House whether it is her intention to destroy the English-as-a-second-language program by not financing it and forcing students to pay \$6 an hour or more for classes?

If she has no such destructive intention, will she give us a specific assurance that the province will continue to provide a major share of the funding for English-as-a-second-language programs?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I do not know where the honourable member gets his information, but if he had read Hansard he would have noted that I did not make any such statement, nor have I made any such statement in public.

I said we were considering the funding of continuing education as is necessary as a result of the study of that whole area carried out by the ministry with the help of a great many other people over the past two years.

It is not my intention at all to reduce the kind of support we have given for very specific programs that have been of assistance in learning a second language. The member will learn in due course what the policy is relating to funding of continuing education.

11:20 a.m.

MOTION

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that, notwithstanding standing order 64(d), Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Bradley exchange positions in the order of precedence for private members' business to be debated.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, in calling the 28th order, I might indicate to the House it has been agreed that the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of the Attorney General will not be proceeded with in committee today. If any time remains after committee of supply handles the supplementary estimates of the ministries of Transportation and Communications and Colleges and Universities, we will resume the

adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion in reply to the speech from the throne.

House in committee of supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

On vote 2604, provincial roads program:

Mr. Samis: Mr. Chairman, I have no particular comments on the supplementary estimates beyond just a general criticism about the lack of information on the nature of the spending.

As critics, I think we are entitled to much more information than what we receive. If we are expected to intelligently discuss, debate and question these estimates, I feel that in the future the ministry must provide us with far more information than we received for these supplementary estimates.

I hope the minister will take that to heart, because I simply find the current background information totally inadequate.

Beyond that, I have no particular comments.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the minister a few questions on the capital and construction area as well as one question on maintenance. They relate to specific problems in my constituency.

I wonder whether the minister can tell us if he intends to extend Highway 138, which now links Highway 401 to Highway 417 from Cornwall and proceeds to the area of St. Isidore de Prescott. For many years, there has been discussion that the highway would eventually link up to Highway 17 at or near the town of Rockland, thus providing a link between Rockland and the United States border.

Some subsidies were granted by the ministry to improve the existing county road north of Highway 138 through that area, but it is still unclear to many of us whether that will become a provincial highway one day. Local residents call that road Highway 138 right now, although it is not Highway 138 once one proceeds north of Highway 417. Perhaps local residents call it that already in the hope that one day it will become a provincial highway.

Perhaps the minister can explain to us whether he intends to make that into a full-fledged provincial highway as a long-range plan and, if so, how far will it go up to Highway 17.

The other matter I want to talk about—I am not sure whether it is maintenance or capital and construction—is the signs on Highway 17.

The minister may recall that I have sent him letters in the past with the criticism that a sign on the Queensway in Ottawa had been removed. That sign used to say Highway 17 was an alternative route from Ottawa to Montreal. It has now been removed, because it apparently created some sort of visual obstruction.

The residents of Prescott-Russell are quite concerned by this. We feel we have lost quite a bit of the flow of traffic which contributed to the local economy. It was subsequent to pressure from the local people that the sign was installed. The minister may recall that one sign was installed westbound just as one leaves Quebec and enters Ontario. That sign has remained. However, going eastbound from Ottawa, the sign has been removed and we are concerned about that.

Finally, I would like to know about the maintenance of Highway 17, especially the winter maintenance. From Orleans to Ottawa that highway is quite well maintained, but from Orleans to Rockland the road is often slippery and is not nearly as well maintained as it is in the Orleans area.

The corporation of the town of Rockland sent a resolution to the minister—I guess it was prior to the last election—complaining of the maintenance of that road. I wonder whether he intends to revise the level at which winter maintenance is done on that section.

Although those concerns were raised by Rockland prior to last winter, there was no noticeable change in the level of maintenance last winter according to the residents of that area. Perhaps the minister could inform us as to his plans in those areas.

Finally, perhaps the minister could also tell us about the status of Highway 416, that famous road the people of Ottawa are hoping will some day link Highway 401 to the nation's capital so we will not have the road we have now.

I am sure the minister knows that if one drives into Ottawa from Highway 401, it is a most difficult manoeuvre to attempt. Of course, I know he would fly there more often than he would drive, but I urge him to try it once. If he does not get lost on the way somewhere between Highway 401 and Ottawa, he has a very good sense of direction. It is difficult even to manoeuvre to get off Highway 401 at exit 114 or 116 in Prescott, where one leaves Highway 401 and enters Highway 16. The signs are poor there.

I know in the past the ministry changed one of the signs to indicate that the exit for Ottawa was

not the next one, but the one thereafter type of thing, which is very confusing. There is a sign that says: "Welcome to Prescott. Use the second exit to go to Ottawa." This is a very confusing situation. A lot of people pass right through and end up changing highways at Morrisburg and taking Highway 31 to Ottawa, which is a lot longer. There is a weak link there between Highway 401 and Ottawa.

Perhaps the minister will entertain immediately having an overhead sign, such as we have in certain urban centres, indicating where the exit is for Ottawa. It would be much easier for the people to think of that as being the exit for the nation's capital.

Somehow one just does not picture a little sign on the side of the road as the exit where one gets off the highway to go into the capital of the country. One would expect something a little more visual than that. Perhaps the ministry could entertain something of that order. Even more fundamental than that, I would like to know about the general forecast for making Highway 16 into what all of us hope it will be, which is Highway 416.

11:30 a.m.

I know the minister is now in the process of expropriating some land just north of Kemptville. There is a three or four-mile stretch there which I think they are going to start this year. After that stretch is done, perhaps the minister could tell us what he expects the next phase of the development of that highway will be.

Those are some of my questions, if the minister would like to respond.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the extension of Highway 138, I would have to say there are no plans at this time for any extension of that highway as a provincial highway.

With regard to the sign on old Highway 17, it is rather hazy at the moment but I recall discussions, conversations and correspondence with regard to this sign. As the member stated, the sign was removed because it was a hazard to visibility in that area. Highways 17 and 417 have been in place long enough now that everyone should know which is which. They both go to Ottawa and Montreal. I doubt there is a need for guidance signs, but we will take a look to see if there is any way of improving that situation.

I am concerned about the member's reference to the level of maintenance on a particular section of Highway 17. I do not know why there would be a different level of maintenance on

this mile of highway than the next mile of highway. If the member would like to give me more details, I will look into it. The standards for a highway such as that are the same for the length of the highway and one five-mile section does not have one standard while another five-mile section has another. There are situations where the two patrols meet, where the snowploughs turn around and so forth and there could be some difference in timing where the patrols meet. If the member will give me more details, we will have it looked into.

With regard to Highway 16, to become Highway 416, there are two contracts to be awarded on that job this year that will extend it from the end of the present newly constructed highway up to where it crosses back over old Highway 16. I think it is county road 8 if I remember correctly. I believe those two grading contracts will be awarded later this year and they will be followed up by a paving contract.

As far as we know, that is where we are going with that highway at this moment. We are waiting for a study and considerations that are being given by the region of Ottawa-Carleton, by my ministry people, the city of Ottawa, and the townships or towns as to what route that highway will follow from that particular point into Ottawa. There are several options being looked at. When we had the meetings a few years ago, I made a commitment that we would extend the highway that far as a two-lane, controlled access highway but we had to have some agreement from all the local municipalities in the region before it could go any further. We put several options before them and that is being studied at this time.

I have no idea when a decision will be made and until that decision is made we cannot even begin to think about planning or building the highway. The thought was that when the highway is completed to the Queensway, if it is, and once we have the route completed as a two-lane route, then we will give consideration on an ongoing basis to expanding it to four lanes divided, which is our normal practice on other highways.

Mr. Boudria: I need just a little more information. I am somewhat disturbed by your comments on Highway 138. Perhaps the minister would like to check with his caucus research bureau, or whatever it is called, that produces an item known as the Queen's Park Newsletter. My predecessor sent a letter not long before the last provincial election explaining in great detail how Highway 138 was going to become a

provincial highway from Highway 417 to Highway 17. That was quite clear in the newsletter he sent. One must assume as a government member that was not just a pet project of his own but must have been one of his government.

I will attempt to find a copy of that. I am sure the minister would have a much easier time getting access to that document than I would. Those types of things circulated by government members must reflect government policy, or at least one would assume so. The population of my area certainly believes that highway will some day become a provincial one, if for no other reason than the fact that the then government member had it as one of his policies, and one must assume it is the government policy.

Perhaps the minister could undertake to look for that document, as I will, and we could some day compare notes on that issue. I am disturbed to hear you say there is no plan at all to make that into a provincial highway. I can only assume there never was a plan to make it into a provincial highway. If that is, in fact, what you are saying, that means the newsletter circulated by my predecessor had some information in it that was perhaps not as correct as it could have been, to put it mildly. I find it in very poor taste, to say the least, if that is the case.

Mr. Riddell: But he was defeated.

Mr. Boudria: Of course, he was defeated and we all know that. What I am trying to get at it is, if you are saying you have changed your policy I can accept that, but if we are hearing that it never was government policy to make that road into a provincial highway, then obviously the policies of my predecessor were not those of the government. Either intentionally or unintentionally, the information given to the constituents of Prescott-Russell seems to have been incorrect.

In so far as that section of highway under winter maintenance between the areas of Rockland and Orleans is concerned, I will send a letter explaining it in detail. There is a definite different level. It relates to the position of the salt dome on the highway. The maintenance vehicles seem always to go in one direction to the city of Ottawa, probably because there is more traffic there and it is assumed it needs a different level of maintenance. If you say it is not ministerial policy to have different levels along that road, then I will send the minister a letter and I will also try and attach a copy of the resolution that had been sent to him previously by the town of Rockland.

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty). Excuse me, I did not know the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) wished to speak. The minister first, and then I will move to the NDP.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I have no knowledge of what might have gone out in any constituency newsletter of the honourable member, his predecessor or any other honourable member. I will not be committed to any statement he or any member on that side of the House or this side of the House puts in a newsletter.

Mr. Conway: That was not Larry Grossman's position yesterday.

Hon. Mr. Snow: That is not government policy as far as I am concerned.

I said to the honourable member that we have no plans, certainly at the present time, to extend that highway. I have worked very closely with the municipalities, with the townships of Russell, Osgoode and Cumberland—I believe they were the three, if I remember rightly—with development road assistance. We are working on a three-year plan to extend a development road that connects north and south right in that same general area. Regardless of what you may have understood, right at this moment we do not have any project on our program for the extension of Highway 138.

The Deputy Chairman: I did not know the member for Beaches-Woodbine would be standing up. I saw all these people to my immediate left. The member for Beaches-Woodbine and then the member for Erie.

11:40 a.m.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, thank you for my turn in the order of speaking. I have just one question of the minister. I would like to inquire about the \$3.5 million for additional design costs, which is in the supplementary estimates. Was some of that money needed in order that the ministry might start to take environmental concerns into account, particularly after the minister's conviction for ignoring the Environmental Assessment Act last fall? Is his ministry now considering environmental concerns in its design of roads and highways?

I understand there are important considerations for the preservation of trees, and how wide a swath should be cut and what effects the wide-cutting has on the adjacent forests and the seeding of trees in the adjacent forests. Are those concerns now being considered at the design stage instead of at the court stage?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Chairman, I find that somewhat of an interesting question. Certainly, environmental assessment is part of the design. In fact, the environmental assessment is carried out before the detailed design is started. If the member knew the process of the Environmental Assessment Act she would understand that.

The ministry has an environmental office and was considering environmental concerns on our highway construction many years before the Environmental Assessment Act was ever thought of. We certainly were considering these concerns long before there was an act and a proclamation that required us to do a complete environmental assessment as we know it today.

There is a two-phase environmental assessment program. The first phase is the planning phase or establishing the route where the road will be built, if it is a new alignment. The second phase, after the first is approved, is the approval of the environmental assessment of the detailed design of the project. Then, of course, there are many class assessments for widening, repaving and more minor work where a class assessment is submitted to the Ministry of the Environment. When that is approved we can carry out all work of that type under that same assessment as long as we abide by the conditions of that approval.

Ms. Bryden: Is the ministry seeking exemptions from the Environmental Assessment Act for any of its major highway programs, as has been the case in the past, or is it now going along with having all its major projects come under environmental assessment?

Hon. Mr. Snow: We have no applications that I know of at this time. We have not made any applications for an exemption for a highway project that we are carrying out for several months. We have a number of assessments that we have submitted. We have a long list of assessments on projects that are either being prepared, or at the ministry now. Some have been approved. We just got the approval on the Highway 403 contract at Brantford two or three months ago. That contract was just awarded last week. I cannot tell the member that we will never apply for another exemption because there may very well be another project come up with some urgency where we might have to apply, but we are not applying at this time. Our projects are going under the act.

Ms. Bryden: I am glad to hear the minister is not planning to apply for exemptions. I hope he will not proceed on highways without the

approval of the environmental assessment board in future either.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, I want to congratulate the minister regarding my riding, Erie, where he has taken into consideration the preservation of trees along Highway 3. I think the Ministry of Transportation and Communication has an excellent program in reforestation, that is, the planting of new trees and so on, though I wish the trees were planted back on private property so that the roadway could be maintained in a proper manner. Planting the trees a little too close to the roadways has caused difficulties in mowing and keeping down the weeds along the roadsides.

Particularly in Wainfleet township, the minister was very considerate and understanding when the question of MTC environmental practices came to the attention of property owners along the road. I think he did an excellent job there.

My main concern is the capital and construction programs on Highway 406, that is the new connecting link with overpasses and such on the Queen Elizabeth Way west of the old Welland Canal. I think it is progressing very well. I wonder if the minister had given consideration to the additional land required to put in the connecting links and overpasses and if some consideration would be given to provision for motor vehicle parking.

I think eventually the GO system will go into the Niagara region. Gray Coach provides a good service there now. But more people are going to be using public transit in getting back and forth between Hamilton and Toronto and places like that. There should be some areas set aside for vehicle parking. Perhaps this is the time we should be taking a look at it. The buses can pull along there without too much of a delay instead of going downtown in St. Catharines to pick up persons who want to travel that way.

The other area around Highway 406—it seems to be done in stages in the Niagara region, for some unknown reason—is that it is not moving as fast as we would like to see. There is a question about the crossing of the old Welland Canal at Welland—I guess it is called the Woodlawn Bridge. I understand the city of Welland has requested that the government exempt it from environmental hearings. One of the reasons is that the region has done some environmental studies in this area. But sometimes the delay in having these hearings can be rather costly to the taxpayers in the region and throughout Ontario. These hearings may take

months and months and years. By the time one calls a contract, the price has doubled. This should be taken into consideration.

There are those who may complain about the environmental issues, and facts that may cause some problems, but if anybody drives a car, regardless of where it is, he is causing environmental problems. People who complain seem to forget that as long as they come by car to complain at a hearing, they are driving a vehicle that is causing many of the serious environmental problems across the province.

I am concerned about the bridge. It has been a long time on the drawing board. One of the main concerns is that eventually it is going to be hooked up to the southern peninsula, that is, the city of Port Colborne, which has a pretty heavy industrial base. The sooner we can get this Woodlawn Bridge built the better. It may be a tripartite agreement and funded by the region, by MTC and the federal government. I think there is an urgent need to complete this connecting link to the Queen Elizabeth Way so that people in the trucking and in the manufacturing sector have another direct route to move their goods to Toronto and beyond.

As much as I travel the Queen Elizabeth Way, I am beginning to find it is one of the most dangerous stretches of superhighways in Ontario. I think there will be more of an effort in that area to encourage motorists—people who are travelling to Toronto for employment, or from Toronto to other places such as Oakville—to use the public transit system.

I still see day by day only one person per car. If one comes in at 7:30 in the morning, 8 o'clock, or 8:30, traffic is backed up right to Oakville.

11:50 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Chairman, if the member would try coming in at 6:30 every morning when I come in, he would have no problem.

Mr. Haggerty: But that is time and a half for the minister. I do not have a Big Blue Machine to pick me up. When one is being driven, half the work load is taken off. I know it is becoming a serious problem and I am sure the minister must use Highway 5 at times because of the heavy traffic on the Queen Elizabeth Way. That takes him right to his back door.

I suggest it is getting to be quite a congested highway and there will have to be major improvements in that area, or major improvement in the public transit system so these people could use that, or there should be other methods to generate more revenue if those persons want

to drive a single vehicle because it is causing problems there.

Hon. Mr. Snow: We could raise the ad valorem tax.

Mr. Haggerty: No. I think there are problems now that the \$5 fee was raised on wrecked automobiles or junkers or whatever you may call them. I think there are many wreckers, recycling industries, the small businessmen in this area, who are not too happy with that proposed \$5 fee for the transfer of a car going to the junkyard or the scrapyard. There is a little bit of flak on that.

Mr. Cunningham: They will not be coming to your dinner.

Mr. Haggerty: No, I guess not, but I suppose that is the way he is going to get that extra revenue. He is going to lower our automobile licence to \$45 or—

The Deputy Chairman: I would ask the member to state a question on the subject.

Mr. Haggerty: It relates to construction. This is where the ministry generates its revenue to build all this road work. I suggest there are problems there and hopefully they will do something to speed up that Woodlawn Road bridge crossing at Welland to connect Highway 406 to the southern part of the peninsula. It is needed and long overdue.

The Deputy Chairman: I have difficulty in trying to keep everyone on topic. I hope this long question does pertain to the estimates. Otherwise, I would say it is not necessary to answer it.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I would say the first part of the question related in some way to design and part of the supplementary estimate is for design. Part of it is for property acquisition, and I am sure there is property acquisition involved in Highway 406. I understand the member's interest in getting Highway 406 completed. I have a similar interest but I also have to consider getting it completed in a way that can be used. There is no use jumping back and forward from one end to the other, spending money and putting it in places where no one can drive vehicles.

We are proceeding in a rational way. Because of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development funding made available to me last year, for this year and for the next three years, we have been able to accelerate the construction. I believe we have four contracts under way right at this moment on Highway 406 in St.

Catharines. I cannot give total dollar value right off the top of my head, but one of them is a \$12-million bridge. I believe the other \$7-million or \$8-million contract was awarded last fall, so there is a lot of money being spent on the four contracts under way now. This fiscal year there will be approximately another four contracts awarded on Highway 406. No one can say that we are not putting emphasis on the completion of Highway 406.

The member referred to Woodlawn Road. I know the city of Welland would like to have had that built yesterday. We have met, we have made the commitment, we are doing the plans, we are doing the environmental assessment and we have time to do the environmental assessment and submit it. Although they have sent me a resolution asking me to request an exemption, I am not about to do that at this time because I do not have any money to start it tomorrow when the money is committed to other jobs.

The member made a suggestion about parking lots for automobiles at the intersections. We are doing this. In our program last year we built eight or nine commuter parking lots at various locations. We will be building more in our program in 1982 which we can discuss when we get into our new estimates, which I hope to be doing very soon, as soon as they are tabled.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Chairman, I will try to stay on topic. Very briefly, I would like to know what kind of progress in being made on Highway 402 and when does the minister anticipate that project will be completed?

Second, has the minister or his ministry ever considered a policy of signing townships on major provincial highways in the same fashion that counties are signed? If this would be too onerous or too expensive, would he consider a temporary sign for this year for the township of Biddulph in Middlesex county? My reason for requesting this—not only myself but some of the municipal officials have asked if it would be possible—is that this year we are having a great event there. I certainly want to welcome the minister to this event.

An hon. member: Jack is retiring.

Hon. Mr. Snow: What is it, a Liberal picnic?

Mr. Riddell: No, it is not. Something on the same scale maybe. The International Plowing Match is being held in Middlesex county, the township of Biddulph. Some of the municipal officials wondered if it would be possible to sign Biddulph township on the major provincial routes leading into that township with the same

kind of sign that would be used to sign a county on the provincial highways.

I wonder if the minister would give that consideration. Some parts of rural Ontario are not particularly blessed with large, urban centres and yet the people living there are tremendously proud of the townships in which they live. They feel they are somewhat discriminated against when they drive along and they see a nice big sign denoting a city with a population of so much and yet for the townships—and by far the largest part of the population lives out in the rural areas in the townships—there is no denoting of any kind as to what part of the province people are driving through.

If the minister could not sign townships, could he at least consider putting nice, large, temporary signs denoting Biddulph township on the major routes leading into that township, for that great event, the 1982 International Plowing Match?

Mr. Nixon: Is that not where the Black Donnellys come from?

Mr. Riddell: That is right.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Chairman, I will take a look at that. We do not sign the townships on the highways because so many of the highways run through so many townships in sequence, I do not think people would really keep track of them. There would be a great proliferation of additional signs on our highways which I really do not think would be that meaningful. I am very proud of our former township of Esquesing, as well. It has disappeared off the map now, but it was a very fine township; still is.

With regard to Highway 402, we have one more contract to award on that job, I believe. The last grading contract is almost completed. There is a little bit of work to do this spring. One paving contract has already been awarded this winter and there is one more paving contract to be called. I think it is going to be called very early this spring, as soon as we have a little better timing on when this bit of grading will be finished. Unless something drastic happens, we hope everything will be finished and the highway will be open this fall, probably in November or something like that.

Mr. Newman: Mr. Chairman, I want to raise two issues with the minister and ask him to reply to those issues I do raise. In the first instance, the minister's legislation is going to prevent individuals from parking along the side of the expressways.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Chairman, with all due respect, the Highway Traffic Act has nothing to do with these estimates.

Mr. Newman: I am not saying they do include it. The minister has not even waited a minute to find out what I am going to tell him. Maybe I have a bit of intelligence and I could give the minister a good idea. Does he not want it? Or is he going to be—

The Deputy Chairman: As long as your question pertains to the estimates, we would certainly like to hear it.

Mr. Newman: Other members have stood in their places in this House and rambled and rambled. The minister never mentioned to them that the issues they were raising had nothing to do with it. I am talking about Highway 401 and the fact that the ministry is going to prevent parking along the side of the highway.

12 noon

The suggestion I want to make to the minister is: If the distance between two service centres is more than nature will allow for a person to control himself, then perhaps there is going to be a need for comfort stations where the distances between centres are fairly substantial. That is one of the suggestions. I do not care whether the minister does it or not, but I think it is something that should be given consideration.

The next question I want to raise with the minister is the timing of the E.C. Row expressway. He is aware of the extent of the construction, and the length already open. It is four lanes for some distance within the municipality, and it is really appreciated. It has been a real asset and a help for the east-west movement of traffic.

If it is possible, we would like the minister to extend that especially in the westerly direction where he eventually intends to complete its construction up to Highway 18. I would like to know if the minister is proceeding with the purchase of property, and what timetable he has for completing the westerly direction into Highway 18? Can we expect it to be done within a reasonable period of time?

The third issue I would like to mention is that since the city of Windsor is one of the main points of entrance into Canada, it would be nice for those coming out of the tunnel and entering Canada for the first time to be faced with a nice sign from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications welcoming them to Ontario. May I have the minister's reply?

Hon. Mr. Snow: First of all, I must say I do not go to Windsor that often to observe the sign. If

there is not a welcome-Ontario sign at the entrance coming in to Windsor—as far as I know there is a tourist information centre there—

Mr. Newman: No, there is a Kentucky fried chicken sign.

Hon. Mr. Snow: In any case, Kentucky fried chicken is not bad if one is in the chicken business. I would have to speak to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Baetz) who is responsible for that type of signing and who would work with my ministry. We will probably put the sign up for them or arrange for the structures. As I say, I have not come through that tunnel for about 25 or 30 years so if there is not a sign there I agree with the member there should be. But I am not the right one to be asking for it.

The E.C. Row—I am somewhat confused at the question there because that highway is under construction. The contract was awarded last fall. The only thing I have in my book is \$30,000 in 1982 or 1983 for landscaping which is carried out the year after the highway is constructed. The contract was announced by the local members down there; maybe it does not hit the member's particular riding. Certainly, we were notified and press releases were sent out. The member must have somehow missed it.

Mr. Newman: It was completed in my riding but it stops at Huron Church Road.

Hon. Mr. Snow: It stops at Huron Church Road and the contract is awarded from Huron Church Road to Highway 18, on a stage basis for two lanes only.

Mr. Newman: The minister has not purchased the property yet.

Hon. Mr. Snow: If we have not purchased the property there is something wrong. We do not award contracts until the property is purchased. What is he trying to tell me? The contract is awarded.

Mr. Newman: I have been dealing with an individual through a lawyer who is still dicker-ing with the minister's department as to the price of the property. The minister's officials are snowing him.

Hon. Mr. Snow: With all due respect, if that is the way you want to act, then be irresponsible. The job is awarded. Contracts are not awarded until property clearance is received and the property clearance could mean the property is under expropriation. Under expropriation, we would have paid the man or woman what we

offered him or her if he or she would accept the cheque.

It might be God only knows how long before they get the thing into court, into the Land Compensation Board to settle it. Until it goes to the Land Compensation Board, we continue negotiations. We do not move in and start building highways on people's property without settling it and I do not like you making the inference that we do.

Mr. Newman: What is your target date?

Hon. Mr. Snow: The contract is awarded. It is not that big a contract. I forget, but it is about \$5 million or \$6 million. It is about a year's work. It will likely be finished this fall. I do not have the exact completion dates on every project with me today as I would have during my normal estimates.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, I have a question to which the minister may be able to give us a response. Somewhere in that dark hinterland of Halton, Mississauga and Peel, there is a road which I understand is known roughly as the James Snow Memorial Parkway. It is sort of an epitaph in concrete which has been put into place—

The Deputy Chairman: I trust the honourable member is doing as do all the other honourable members and is tying the question into the supplementary estimates.

Mr. Cassidy: That is correct. The supplementary estimates are on construction, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister, what was the process through which the decision was taken to name that particular parkway and what was the involvement of his ministry and the minister himself in initiating, approving or being consulted on that decision?

The Deputy Chairman: I am concerned whether this does tie into the supplementary estimates but if the minister wants to respond—

Hon. Mr. Snow: I will be glad to respond to that cheap shot. I have to tell the honourable member there was absolutely no involvement by my ministry and no involvement by myself in the naming of that new local road which intersects Highway 401. There were meetings with the town of Milton and with the region of Halton regarding the bypass and a decision was made that there would be a new interchange built at that location.

After those meetings, two or three weeks went by. I was somewhat surprised, very surprised to get a resolution from the town of Milton and a letter from the mayor stating that

the Milton council had unanimously moved and passed a resolution asking that this local road—it is not a provincial road—be named the James Snow Parkway.

I replied and said that, as this would probably be a regional road or partially a regional road at some time, before I could give consideration to that I would have to know the feelings of the region of Halton. The Milton council and the mayor put forward a similar resolution at the regional level which passed unanimously.

After that took place, I agreed to have my name on that roadway, not so much my name but the Snow name because that roadway goes through the farm I was born on. It is the farm my father farmed during the Depression. It touches a farm owned by my uncle at the present time which was owned by my grandparents back in the late 1800s, and in two other locations the road touches other farm property I lived on as a boy.

The reason the name was picked was because of the involvement of the Snow family, of my father, my uncles and my grandparents, in this little area, the Scotch block. If the member for Halton-Burlington (Mr. J. A. Reed) were here, he could confirm the actual location. That was the reason for the naming of that road.

Mr. Cassidy: What was the provincial contribution to the cost of the parkway? Which share was—

The Deputy Chairman: I am going to rule that question out of order on the basis that it does not have to do with the supplementary estimates.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, this is an opportunity to review the policy of—

The Deputy Chairman: It is not. There are other opportunities to review the policy and we are reviewing the supplementary estimates.

12:10 p.m.

Mr. Cassidy: That is correct. I do not know whether some portion of the cost was paid in the supplementary estimates or not. That is why I am asking.

The Deputy Chairman: The member must realize that road is completed. These estimates are for other projects, so I will not accept the question.

Mr. Cassidy: As you wish, Mr. Chairman. You can defend the minister; that is okay.

The Deputy Chairman: I do not accept that statement. I am saying the debate today deals with the supplementary estimates. I am not

trying to show any favouritism nor give any priority to anything else. I am trying to keep the debate on topic. If any member wants to raise any question on supplementary estimates I, as the deputy chairman of this committee, will give that member the opportunity. If the questions are not on topic, I will try to rule them out of order and put him in a position where it is going to be understood.

If my position as deputy chairman is questioned, there are methods for the House to challenge that. It can be by that member with three or four other members joining him on it. We can take it back to the Speaker and have him rule on it outside of the committee.

Mr. Di Santo: I have a point of order. I think the government House leader admitted that since there are no explanatory notes attached to the supplementary estimates, there should be some flexibility on the part of the chairman. The same kind of incident happened last week when he interrupted me while a minister volunteered to answer the question. So if the minister is willing to answer the question raised by the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy), I do not see why the chairman should prevent him from doing so.

The Deputy Chairman: I will take what the member has said under advisement.

Vote 2604 agreed to.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

On vote 2802, college and adult education support program; item 2, provincial support for colleges of applied arts and technology:

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The supplementary estimates for the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to be debated are additional grants for adult and apprenticeship training.

Under the Canada Manpower training program, institutional training is divided, as the members know, into two groups: adult training and apprenticeship training. Adult training students are referred to the colleges by the local Canada Employment and Immigration Commission offices and they attend full-time programs which vary in length from two weeks to 52 weeks. The students receive training in occupational skills and/or academic upgrading.

In the apprenticeship portion, students are referred to the colleges by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. They spend 90 per cent of their training time working on the job

and they are paid for that by their employers. The remaining 10 per cent is in-school training which is required by the Apprenticeship and Tradesmen's Qualification Act in the province.

We recover the cost of adult and apprenticeship training from the federal government. Each year, when we develop the estimates, it is not clear what the federal intentions related to this program will be. It is customary, therefore, to use the approximate level of actual spending for the previous year.

This year the estimate was \$109.6 million and the supplementary estimate of \$5.525 million is required to reflect the increased costs of providing training and the shift in federal priorities.

Mr. Conway: May I initially congratulate the Minister of Education and Colleges and Universities. I have sat through most of the supplementary estimates, and although her statement was not perhaps the longest, it was by far the most helpful in speaking specifically to the vote at hand. I think she is to be congratulated for that.

The Deputy Chairman: It is my job to—

Mr. Conway: Mr. Chairman, I know only too well the diligence and vigour with which you apply yourself to the important role you have and I sometimes chide you for what I think are your shortcomings.

I feel I am very much in the presence of a Solomon and I will try to confine my remarks today to the subject at hand. But I am going to ask your indulgence, since this is the first opportunity I have had, in a formal parliamentary sense, to say to my friend the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), with whom I have had a very—it is hard to describe the relationship—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Ambivalent.

Mr. Conway: —I have had with the Minister of Education in this chamber. We seem, the minister and I, to bring out the very best in each other. I am sure that was part of my leader's observation when some days ago he asked me to assume these responsibilities as spokesman for higher education for the official opposition. I just want to say to the honourable minister that I look forward to a creative, constructive, kinetic dialogue in the days and months ahead.

Mr. Grande: You want to use your muscle in other words.

Mr. Conway: I know the member for Oakwood will have much more to say about these matters in his remarks in the weeks ahead.

I do honestly look forward to the new responsibilities. I have taken less interest in

these matters in previous years because I always felt there existed, in my mind at least, a certain conflict of interest. Being a student turned politician I did not feel I could easily or effectively speak to the public interest.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Would you classify yourself as an apprentice now?

Mr. Conway: Perhaps. I will leave the classification of myself and my contribution to more learned and more objective members of this House and elsewhere.

I am interested in pursuing the debate. Today the minister has brought us here to grant an additional appropriation of \$5.525 million for the reasons she just stated. I wanted to quickly touch upon the matter by saying that just the night before last, I joined with her colleague, the member for Renfrew South (Mr. Yakabuski), and our federal member in Pembroke to participate in a forum sponsored by Algonquin College on the Pembroke campus. Its purpose was to discuss the role of the applied arts and technology colleges as far as these programs are concerned.

I thought we had a good discussion about the matter. I know the group would be delighted to have these supplementary appropriations drawn to their attention. I will see that it is done. I am sure the member for Renfrew South will communicate to my friend the minister that I said some rather nice things about her and the great and fierce battles she has fought, and in some ways won, in securing the 12.2 per cent funding increase for the fiscal year 1982-83. I am sure my friend, the member for Renfrew South, will be quick to report the very balanced, moderate and positive view I took on these matters.

I want to take this opportunity to communicate to the minister the view of the faculty and staff and community leaders in the Ottawa Valley about the fact that by all accounts on the principal calculation, provincial government funds have been slowed down in so far as the rates have increased over the past number of years. In the Ottawa Valley-Pembroke campus we have lost a very popular part of our forestry program, one that has a direct, immediate linkage into the manpower requirements of my home county and my home community. It concerns us a great deal that apparently as a result of years of Ontario provincial government underfunding, among other things, they have found themselves in a very difficult position. I define underfunding in this respect to be a significant slowdown in the rate of transfer to

community colleges, transfers that were significantly less than the rate of inflation.

The result of that is the loss of a very important and positive woodworker program that in our area has had a very important and positive link with the economy to which that program was designed in many ways to relate.

I would ask the minister to take my expression of concern on behalf of the woodworker program, and the community college faculty and students at the Pembroke campus seriously. I would invite her to review that situation and to communicate to me privately or publicly, at a convenient time, what can be done to save that program, and what advice she can offer to the students who appeared at that faculty forum the other night to express community concern and frustration about the loss of part of a very important forestry program in a part of this province where forestry education has been very popular, and considered very effective.

12:20 p.m.

The board of directors at Algonquin College has let it be known that the woodworker program will be suspended at the Pembroke campus effective at the end of this term, or for the fall 1982 term.

I want to say as well that this supplementary appropriation provides an opportunity for me to raise something with the minister that my colleague and friend from Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney), raised the other day. I was thinking about this matter this morning as I was listening to the late leader of the New Democratic Party, the former member for Scarborough West—

Mr. Philip: The former leader.

Mr. Conway: The former leader; I accept entirely the advice and injunction of the member for Etobicoke. Mr. Stephen Lewis was being quoted at length on the morning radio about his views on post-secondary education. His thoughts reminded me of the review that was recently published by the Ontario Manpower Commission. I would be interested at another time—because I realize that we have a limited amount of time today—to share with members here today the incredibly worrisome direction indicated by that report. I am the first one to admit that manpower planning, particularly manpower projection, is a very imperfect science.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is not a science.

Mr. Conway: I will accept that qualification. The other night the member for Renfrew South (Mr. Yakabuski), very aptly pointed to the

nursing situation. I could not think of a better example because three or four years ago we were led to believe that we were going to have years of oversupply. Now, of course, we know that in some ways that is not at all the case.

I am assuming the current Minister of Education and Colleges and Universities, formerly the Minister of Labour, would believe the people of the Ontario Manpower Commission know what they are about. In my experience with the OMC, the previous chairperson, Mr. Pollock, was particularly positive. I had a feeling that he had a good grasp of what he was about, and had good people around him giving him advice. I read the manpower commission report and want to at least believe that they are probably, if not totally, accurate or tending in an accurate direction. This is not the only evidence we have before us because I can remember Professor Ted Harvey at the University of Toronto, four or five years ago when I was in his presence, talking about what we were looking at down the road in the 1980s, and we've had other studies as well.

But to be told by the OMC in the past couple of months that there is going to be an estimated shortfall of between 38,000 and 48,000 highly skilled workers by 1986, and an estimated shortfall of between 20,000 and 47,000 of the so-called lower skilled workers at a time when we are, by their projections, going to have an oversupply of between 150,000 and 180,000 white-collar service sector graduates, worries me a great deal. These would be people whose training would lead them into the so-called white-collar service sector employment areas. Certainly, that is the experience I am already encountering in my part of the province.

There are people coming out of schools of applied arts and technology, who have been trained for a host of those kinds of positions, and they find they are not going to be employed in any way.

I did not bring my files with me, but I will supply the minister with a couple of recent cases that have been brought to my attention. If she disputes the Ontario Manpower Commission's data, then that is her prerogative. I hope she is right and I am wrong, but the clear indication of the manpower commission's report is that there is going to be a very worrisome shortfall of the high and so-called "low skilled" manpower group.

At the same time, we are going to have a surfeit of between 150,000 and 180,000 people whose educational training will have qualified

them for the so-called white-collar service sector area. There are not going to be jobs for them.

I reiterate that if the minister considers those data to be completely off base, then I am, like a number of other members, quite anxious and willing to hear what she has to say about that. There is very much a body of opinion which would support what the manpower commission is telling us.

I had the opportunity about two weeks ago of having a working lunch in Ottawa with a broad group of the high-tech industry in that part of the province. They were quick to point out their experience would very much confirm what the manpower commission report would indicate and conclude. They would be the first to say if they were here: "Yes, the Ontario government has done a number of things to help us along. But we have a lot more pressing and immediate requirements that we simply must get on with if we are as a province and as a country going to be able to capture a place in the world of this very advancing high technology."

It is my view that the social attitudes and social prejudice that were very pervasive when I was making that decision about future educational directions in the late sixties has changed a lot. There is no question, if one is to be honest with the world of the 1960s, that prejudice was everywhere in our secondary school system as I remember it.

If you wanted to pursue a career in the skilled trades, in the blue-collar industries of our area at least, there was something wrong with you. When I think about that now—management has its share of responsibility to shoulder in this respect. In our own local industries, for example, the local lumber sector, there is this business of a 69-year-old millwright retiring. That might be one of the younger ones. A mission going off to New Brunswick in the hope of finding a 58-year-old replacement for that retiree is not uncommon.

The question I have to ask of our high schools and our community colleges is: Why has there not been a much more aggressive program at that educational level to draw together the industrial, business and labour leadership with the educational community? Accepting that there is a very important responsibility for vocational training—not one that I see is entirely exclusive for the post-secondary system at all, but certainly there is that part of a mandate that I see as being very significant—I wonder why there has not been a more vigorous

linkage between those sectors and the 15 or 16 or 17-year-old Ontarian who is sitting in school thinking about a career. I think we have all done a poor job in that regard.

12:30 p.m.

One of the areas in this connection bothers me a great deal. It has to do with Ontario's commitment to nuclear power, a commitment that has been widely talked of by a number of leaders in this government. It is a commitment I happen to share and support, but that commitment was made over 20 years ago.

I well understand how it would have been necessary in the late 1950s to go offshore to get the highly skilled and the less skilled manpower to meet that requirement. That is an understandable concept and reality.

What I find much less understandable is why 20 years later we are still doing that. The minister might argue we are not doing it to the degree we did 10 or 20 years ago, but she knows and I know we are still doing it.

I have to ask myself, why is that? Are the high school kids in Huron, Brant, Oakwood and Willowdale being given every opportunity to understand what excellent opportunities exist in that area of high technology in this province? My suspicion is that we are not doing as much as we could or should be doing. It is true we are improving, but we are coming from a pretty lamentable base.

It is those kinds of questions that I hope this assembly, this government and this minister will apply themselves to more purposefully than has heretofore been the case.

I want to reiterate a point I made with respect to the public forum the other night in Pembroke. If this province is not able to have at the applied level of colleges and technical institutes within this sector a more reactive vocational training capacity than we have shown ourselves able to produce in years past, we are going to pay a high price.

It was not so long ago that the Ontario Economic Council said in a report to the government that it was its estimate that manufacturing by 1990 was going to account for 20 per cent—not 30 per cent—of the permanent jobs in the province. What that is going to mean, by my calculations, is that there will be 100,000 fewer jobs in Ontario by 1990 than we have previously enjoyed in that sector. By all accounts, the future is in the area of software and in related areas. We have to be able to adjust our vocational training capacity to meet those exciting new challenges.

In the town of Renfrew, we have a relatively new Westinghouse plant. It is probably a year and a half to two years old. It has a world product mandate, an exciting opportunity for the people of the province and of that region to participate in something very different from that which has normally been their opportunity and experience.

I was absolutely astonished to go through that plant and see the level of sophistication that is required to perform just about any function there. In discussion with the management and the labour leadership, I inquired as to our capacity to meet those requirements here and now. It is a very limited capacity.

Mitel Corp. has located in that same town with 700 jobs in that area of microelectronics. I know the pressures on the colleges and other educational facilities to meet those 700 positions opening probably within the next eight to 12 months are going to be very significant.

We have a local industrial training council, which has been working with a more reactive apprenticeship program, an excellent idea in my view and a good, strong step in the right direction, for which the government and the minister deserve some credit. I am quite prepared to grant that credit, but in so many cases these are isolated, tentative steps and I have the distinct impression that underneath the minister we have a panoply of planners whose commitment is very much to the realities of the 1960s and the 1970s. The minister nods her head vigorously in the negative.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am shaking it, not nodding it.

Mr. Conway: She is not nodding her head, but shaking it vigorously in the negative. I hope she is right, because those of us who are products of the educational system that the Premier (Mr. Davis) built find it very difficult to imagine how that mandarinat could ever organize itself to shake off the prejudice of that period and come back to a more realistic understanding of the world and of the economy in which we find ourselves.

In later days we will talk, the minister and I, about some of that past prejudice and how I think it has materially disadvantaged our opportunities—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Why should we talk about prejudice? Why should we not talk about what we can do?

Mr. Conway: Indeed, we can and we will. But I am just sharing with the minister a suspicion

that there are an awful lot of the planning people who are still tied into that old attitude.

I look forward to seeing not only examples of additional appropriation to this kind of program but, and I want to put the minister on notice that I hope that in her generous way she will be preparing a response to the Ontario Manpower Commission report, because I have the suspicion she does not believe too much of what it has reported. Again, it is only a suspicion, but I think I can imagine how she would dispute what is being recommended.

If it is the case that the minister does not believe that by 1986 we will be short 14,000 engineers and skilled technicians for the microelectronics sector on which so much of the hope of this province is being placed by, among others, the former Minister of Industry and Tourism, who now is the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman), then I want her to tell me before too much longer how and why those figures are inadequate or incomplete. There are an awful lot of people out there who are wondering about that very situation and the capacity to meet that need.

For example, the other day it was raised to me by people in the community colleges and, in fact, one person in the university community, that by all accounts our co-operative program at the University of Waterloo is among the most popular and successful from the point of view of students and industry. I want to know why is it that we have but one of those programs? She nods her head.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: At a university.

Mr. Conway: That is it exactly: at the university level, given the fact that we have this worrisome projection about engineering capacity and given the fact that not too many colleges offer a full engineering program, outside of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, which I believe is the only other institution beyond universities to do so.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I don't know what you mean by a full engineering program if we are talking engineering technology. There are many colleges in Ontario—

Mr. Conway: No. I am talking about the kind of engineering program that one would find, for example, at a university such as Waterloo. I may be wrong on this; I am quite new to this debate, and I am happy to be guided by the minister, who has never shied away from her infallibility in the past. You know, we Catholics taking

these papal instructions like to know that the Pope is not alone in his claim.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You have always demonstrated you share the Pope's position.

Mr. Conway: I have always enjoyed the minister's enthusiastic support of the principle of that doctrine of infallibility as it applies to her own ministerial performance; but that is not fair, Mr. Chairman.

I just have to wonder, for example, why our system has been so slow in developing those kinds of programs. Those are the kinds of questions that I look forward to debating with the Minister of Colleges and Universities in the days, weeks and, dare I say, years that lie ahead.

12:40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Does the minister wish to respond before we go on to the next speaker in rotation?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I will respond briefly, Mr. Chairman. It has been delightful to hear the maiden speech of the new critic for the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), addressing items that have very little to do, or at the very most have a tangential relationship, with the item under discussion in these supplementary estimates.

Mr. McClellan: What is under discussion is what we discuss.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I shall be pleased to debate any number of these things, whatever he wishes to discuss, in the future. Certainly I would like to hear about any specific program which he feels requires review, because I shall ask the college for the rationale for their decision. That decision is made on the basis of criteria which have been established by the entire college system for relevance, popularity, the usefulness of the course and the kind of employability which the graduates have.

I remind the member that the rate of employment for college graduates is second only to that for university graduates in this province and that it is very much higher than it is for almost any other group. For those whose technology training is appropriate, and obviously the vast majority are within that group, they are employed with relative ease in a very short time after graduation from their programs. We make a very concerted effort to ensure that there is relevance between the programs offered and what is required in the community.

I was delighted to hear the member provide at least grudging congratulation for the whole

concept of community industrial training councils, which I think are one of the major forces in bringing together educational institutions, work places, students and those who are involved in attempting to train them in the most appropriate way. We now have 61 of them, if I am not mistaken, in the province.

Mr. Chairman: He might have been a little off the topic, but he gets an A for keeping members attuned to the supplementary estimates.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, I am only going to take a couple of minutes, and then I believe the member for Oakwood (Mr. Grande) has more extensive remarks to make.

I want to share a few comments that are directly related to the vote but more specifically relate to Humber College, which is in my riding. I hope the minister will be able to answer some of the concerns in a specific way.

One of the major concerns I have is that we have approximately 1,300 more applications this year at Humber College than we had last year at this time. In fact, last year the total number of application was 17,600 for approximately 4,700 spaces. At this point there are 1,300 more applicants than there were at this time last year. There are only 5,000 spaces this year; so there are only 300 more spaces than last year, roughly speaking.

What I am trying to say is that there are still growing demands on our college. At this time of high unemployment, as President Wragg has said on so many occasions and before committees at which the minister was present, the community colleges are one of the greatest investments in providing people with an opportunity so they do not become unemployed and suffer some of the hardships so many people are suffering in the present recession.

Part of the problem also relates not just to the staffing and the amount of funds we have for the general operations for the present facilities but also to the space requirements at Humber. In fact, the president will be meeting the Council of Regents on April 21 to deal with that problem. I notice the amount available for capital expenditures was very small last year; I believe the figure was about \$12 million out of total assets of the community colleges of about \$1 billion.

In the case of Humber College, we are particularly disadvantaged in terms of space as compared with a good many other colleges. In fact, if we look at the number of square feet, Humber and Seneca, which are the two colleges serving my area and the Mississauga area, are extremely disadvantaged. I believe Seneca works

out at 95 square feet per student enrolled, and Humber is 97 square feet per student enrolled. I believe they are the two lowest in the system.

What I am saying is that the west end and Mississauga colleges are not—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Seneca is in my riding, and that is not west Toronto.

Mr. McClellan: What have you got against west Toronto?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Nothing. But the college is in my riding.

Mr. Philip: I am sorry, but the aircraft industry, the whole Malton complex of skilled trades associated with the aircraft industry, which is equipped from those trades, is serviced by Seneca College, and therefore it is really the west end and the suburban end of Metro that are disadvantaged.

If we compare Seneca and Humber with Cambrian, we find that Cambrian has 200 square feet per student enrolled. Confederation has 215. And you do not just have to compare with the northern colleges; if you go into Niagara, you are talking about 130 square feet, and even George Brown is at least at 119.

We recently had a problem with one of the programs, and space was part of the motivation for phasing out the theatre arts program; and I recognize that some settlement has now been reached.

One of the interesting things we are trying to do, and it presents a whole series of questions that I think the minister should be looking into, is that President Wragg of Humber College will be meeting, I believe on Monday, with the Etobicoke Board of Education to see whether some space, or some co-ordination of space, can be loosened up there.

Now that may be a very positive thing, but surely what we need is to look at the cost. The moment you start using space off the central campus, your administrative costs increase. I really think there should be some studies by the ministry to look into the additional costs, how much they are, and whether that kind of use of space in some of the public high schools that are closing down is, in fact, a financial saving to the colleges. If it is not, what is the ministry going to do to supplement or to assist the community colleges with the additional costs incurred by using off-campus space in high schools and other places?

The other thing is, when we look at the high school system and at the boards of education, quite rightfully—and I can understand their

point of view—they want to charge the going rate for their space, and this creates pressures on the community colleges. The argument the school boards would make would be, of course, if they did not charge a reasonable rate for the use of that space, then they would have to pass the additional costs on to the ratepayers.

Has the ministry looked into the cost benefits, if any, of the use of space in other buildings, such as high schools that are closing down or that do not have an adequate number of students?

Those are a few of the questions I hope the minister might care to address.

Mr. Chairman: What are we going to do? There are about 11 minutes left. Are you going to address those comments?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: All at once?

Mr. Chairman: You are going to wait, in other words.

12:50 a.m.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, I just want to join in this debate in the committee of supply very briefly to make a couple of comments about matters that were left standing when I left my previous critic role. They have been standing for some time. I have not seen any movement on them, and I just hope the minister might give us some indication in her reply.

I suppose the most important one is the Fisher report. The minister will remember the Fisher committee report came down many years ago.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The Fisher report has to do with universities. This vote is not under that.

Mr. Wrye: We are doing Colleges and Universities, are we not?

Mr. Chairman: I know, but the problem is that under the supplementary estimates—

Mr. Wrye: Let me talk about it in its broadest general scope. The minister has on her desk a series of reports to which she has said in the fullness of time she will give an overall response. I hope the minister will indicate in her reply that she will be responding in short order to the whole list of reports, not the least of which is the report I am not allowed to refer to.

With that, I will bow to the minister.

Mr. Chairman: Very well manipulated, I must say.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, I am happy to tell the member that it will be in the fullness of time.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, I have a question to the minister before my colleague speaks. The minister quite rightly mentioned Seneca College as being in her area, but it does serve our area of the city, particularly in the aircraft industry. I understand a lot of its trades are taught at Seneca.

I am getting increasingly large numbers of people complaining to me about the tremendous number of layoffs in all the various aircraft-related industries. In the apprenticeship programs, I understand we now have somewhere in the vicinity of 70 per cent dropouts. Is that correct as historically being in that figure? Is it not that high?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not know precisely.

Mr. Philip: A young man called me today, and what he had to say related directly to some of the problems I have been hearing from some of the corporation people who have been calling and telling me about the problems they are having in their industry.

He was in an apprenticeship program in one of the aircraft-related trades and was laid off. He has spent three years out of a four- or five-year apprenticeship program, and now his question is: Where is he going from here? He called one of the other companies and they told him they might be able to offer him a job. They are not quite sure yet, but he would have to start his apprenticeship program all over again and he would have a three-year delay.

Is there no standardization whereby somebody can carry that trade from one to the other? Is the minister getting reports like that from companies? What percentage of the people who are dropping out are related to layoffs in the industry and the present high unemployment situation?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry I cannot give any precise information about percentages, because I think that would be extremely difficult to determine.

In situations in the past in which individuals within a specific apprenticeship program were laid off, making contact with their apprenticeship counsellor is a useful route to finding an appropriate alternative training program or placement to continue the same apprenticeship program.

There is no question in my mind that the suggestion that they would have to start all over again from square one is an inaccurate statement unless that individual was going to change the kind of skills training he was involved in.

Our commitment within the ministry to the whole concept of skills training is reflected very clearly in the restructuring of the ministry. It has produced a specific division that brings together all skills training development, that which is under the apprenticeship program and employer-sponsored training, that which is related to the linkage program and the function of the community industrial training councils. College activities related to skills training development are now all within one area of the ministry so they can be co-ordinated.

That is now a division within the ministry which is of equal importance to Colleges and Universities and Education. I think that is a very important concept to understand.

We shall pursue that activity, because in the past there has been too much fragmentation of skills development. This has led to the concepts which the member was suggesting were out there. We are looking at skills development as a continuum. Indeed, not all people need to reach the journeyman level to be adequately or appropriately employed if that is their choice.

We would like to see ways in which the doors were open for those individuals who have not reached that level to achieve it if they stopped at one point and then decided they would like to go on. That is the basis of all our discussions and all our activities related to skills development.

In the area of the space problem which the member was raising, we have vigorously encouraged the colleges of applied arts and technology to utilize whatever available, appropriate space there might be within the community and specifically looking at the elementary-secondary system, where appropriate space may be available relatively easily.

This is on the basis that there is a real demographic drop coming in terms of the college system, probably more so than related to the university system, although I do not believe it will be quite as dramatic as was originally detailed for us. It is possible that in some areas of the province, although maybe not in Metropolitan Toronto where the catchment area provides the vast majority of the students, there will be some significant decline in enrolment.

In addition, we have been looking carefully at the entire college system, attempting to determine whether it is appropriate that each college should attempt to provide the skills training courses for which there may be a small number of applicants or students within an area when it might be more appropriately provided in another

college for a larger group of students, and whether that might not be a more sensible and economic use of the funds that are made available for that kind of training.

We are continuing that examination at this point. The Council of Regents is also looking at it. When President Wragg goes to the Council of Regents, I am sure he will be having discussions about the utilization of appropriate space.

In addition to the increase for the colleges this year, which is significant, we have recognized yet another increase for this year which the member neglected to mention. It is an additional one per cent in recognition of the increased enrolment at the college level which will provide some flexibility for some of the colleges where enrolment demand has been significantly higher than on average.

The Acting Chairman (Ms. Fish): Members of the committee, in consideration of the hour, I think it would be appropriate to adjourn the debate at this time.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wells, the committee of supply reported certain resolutions.

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE PAPER

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the answer to question 11 standing on the Notice Paper. (See appendix, page 548).

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I might indicate to the House that since the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities in committee of supply were not completed today, we will begin with those estimates on Monday in committee of supply and then move on to the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. If any time still remains, I guess we will proceed with the throne speech debate.

The House adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

APPENDIX A

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE PAPER*

TAX GRANTS FOR SENIORS

1. Mr. Wrye: Would the Minister of Revenue inform us of how many additional staff members have been hired (including temporary, permanent and contract staff) in order to implement the senior citizens tax grant program and the costs associated with the additional staff? [Tabled March 10, 1982]

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Fifty-six permanent and 161 temporary and contract staff were hired in order to implement the senior citizens tax grant program. The cost associated with this program for the 1981-82 fiscal year is \$1,351,400 for permanent staff and \$2,396,700 for temporary and contract staff.

2. Mr. Wrye: Would the Minister of Revenue provide us with the total administration costs associated with the senior citizens tax grant program? Would the minister provide a breakdown of these administration costs and include references to such costs as telephone inquiries, advertising expenditures and overtime payments for staff? [Tabled March 10, 1982]

Hon. Mr. Ashe: The total administrative cost associated with the senior citizens tax grant program (for the 1981-82 fiscal year) is \$10,872,300. This figure includes advertising expenditure of \$1,417,700 and telephone expenditure of \$429,200. (The telephone expenditures include \$372,000 for automatic call distributor (ACD) and related costs.)

Figures for overtime costs are not available because most of the overtime work was done by temporary staff who are paid on an hourly basis and do not get paid separately for overtime work. In addition, most of the supervisory staff would have put in a great deal of overtime work in connection with this program, but as they do not get paid for overtime work, there is no central record of the amount of overtime hours worked by them.

3. Mr. Wrye: Would the Minister of Revenue provide us with the number of applications waiting to be processed as at February 28, 1982, for the senior citizens tax grants? [Tabled March 10, 1982]

Hon. Mr. Ashe: The number of applications waiting to be processed as at February 28, 1982, was 4,074. This included 1,989 recent arrivals.

4. Mr. Wrye: Would the Minister of Revenue provide us with the number of overpayments or cheques sent out in error associated with the senior citizens tax grant since the beginning of the program? Would the minister provide us with the dollar value of these overpayments? How many of these overpayments have been recovered by the ministry? [Tabled March 10, 1982]

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Property tax grant accounts receivable set up as of March 5, 1982, was 3,839 for a dollar value of \$1,085,294. Sales tax grant accounts receivable set up as of March 5, 1982, was 1,016 for a dollar value of \$54,850.

As of March 5, 1982, a total of \$623,728 had been recovered. Most of the outstanding amount (\$516,416) will be recovered in the 1982-83 fiscal year, with the majority being recovered in April 1982, when the interim property tax grant payments are scheduled to be mailed.

The number of accounts set up for recovery does not include cheques sent out in error which have since been returned to the ministry by the seniors before the cheques were cashed.

5. Mr. Wrye: Would the Minister of Revenue provide us with the number of applications for the senior citizens tax grants that were sent out and the number of applications that were returned to the ministry? Would the minister tell us if there was a second mailing to those applicants who did not return the original application form, and if so, on what date? Of the seniors who did not return the tax grant application form, were any in an annual income bracket of \$15,000 or higher? [Tabled March 10, 1982]

Hon. Mr. Ashe: In September 1981, 560,135 property tax grant applications were sent. In January 1982, 24,898 property tax grant applications were sent for people turning 65 years of age after July 1981. To February 28, 1982, 560,160 applications had been returned to the ministry for processing.

A second application form was not automatically sent to those seniors who did not return the original application. However, in some instances, where there were receipt problems, (e.g., where seniors moved) replacement applications were sent out on an individual basis on request.

Since eligibility for the property and sales tax

grants is not based on income (i.e., no income offset), income information for seniors is not collected.

6. Mr. Wrye: Would the Minister of Revenue provide a breakdown of Ontario's senior citizen population by income level showing the distribution of the total money allocated in the senior citizens tax grant program to the seniors by their various income levels? [Tabled March 10, 1982]

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Since eligibility for the property and sales tax grants is not based on income, income level information for seniors is not available.

7. Mr. Wrye: Would the Minister of Revenue provide us with the number of seniors who will be denied the sales tax grant for the next 10 years due to the forced repayment of a property tax grant sent to them in error by his ministry? [Tabled March 10, 1982]

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Most of the people who were paid in error by the ministry have agreed to some term of repayment, and of the few cases

where arrangement for repayments was more difficult, only in one instance did the senior refuse to make such arrangements. In this case, it appears the ministry will have to recover the amount owing over 10 years, by applying future sales tax grant entitlements against the outstanding receivable.

NUMBERS OF QUEEN'S COUNSEL

9. Mr. Breithaupt: On January 1, 1965, how many lawyers were members of the Law Society of Upper Canada and, of those, how many were Queen's Counsel? For each of the years, from January 1, 1966 to January 1, 1982: (a) how many new lawyers joined the Law Society of Upper Canada; (b) how many were appointed Queen's Counsel, and (c) how many who were Queen's Counsel either were appointed to the bench or died? In each of the years from 1965 to 1982, what percentage of the members of the Law Society of Upper Canada was Queen's Counsel? [Tabled March 16, 1982]

Hon. Mr. McMurtry:

	Appointed QC Jan.1	Deleted inat year	Total QCs added in Dec.31	Lawyers lawyers Year at	No. of % of Dec.31	QCs as lawyers
1965			1,768	235	5,937	29.8
1966	110	45	1,833	282	6,137	29.9
1967	115	54	1,894	286	6,340	29.9
1968	118	52	1,960	348	6,635	29.5
1969	123	47	2,036	397	6,965	29.2
1970	128	95	2,069	444	7,237	28.6
1971	131	80	2,120	455	7,610	27.9
1972	100	39	2,181	498	8,061	27.1
1973	98	72	2,207	690	8,639	25.5
1974	96	52	2,251	715	9,164	24.3
1975	105	60	2,296	816	9,999	23.0
1976	122	78	2,340	850	10,705	21.9
1977	99	74	2,365	896	11,533	20.5
1978	119	59	2,425	995	12,407	19.5
1979	134	46	2,513	1,060	13,345	18.8
1980	149	62	2,600	1,057	14,303	18.2
1981	151	88	2,663	1,067	14,984	17.8
1982	156					

HOME WORK PERMITS

10. Mr. Mackenzie: Would the Minister of Labour table a list of all the home work permits issued in the last year, since January 1, 1981, broken down by the companies or individuals to whom they were issued and further broken down by trade, i.e., needlework, office, etc.? Would the minister also table a copy of any audit or other report done by the ministry in the

last two years which deals with the wages, working conditions or other circumstances of those involved through home work permits? [Tabled March 16, 1982]

See sessional paper 43.

PARKING AT LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

11. Mr. Philip: Will the Minister of Government Services provide a full list of the individuals to whom parking spaces around the main

Legislative Building are assigned, indicating for each individual the office or organization within the main Legislative Building in or for which he or she works and whether the charges for such spaces are paid by the office or organization for which the individual works or by the individual? [Tabled March 16, 1982]

See sessional paper 51.

WCB ADVERTISING IN ETHNIC MEDIA

12. Mr. Di Santo: Will the Minister of Labour table the following information: (1) How much has the Workmen's Compensation Board spent on advertising in the ethnic media in the years 1980 and 1981? (2) How much is the Workmen's Compensation Board spending for advertising in ethnic radio and television programs for the same period of time? (3) Can he give a breakdown of the radio and television stations and the amounts spent on each of them? (4) Is the Workmen's Compensation Board financing the production of any ethnic program? If yes, what is the cost of each program? [Tabled March 16, 1982]

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: (1) \$24,343.25.

(2) 1980—radio, nil; newspapers, \$4,035.01. 1981—radio, \$6,195; television, \$1,275; newspapers, \$12,838.24.

(3) 1980—nil. 1981—CHIN, \$5,895; MTV channel 47, \$575; channel 9, \$450; channel 11, \$250; Salva Organization (radio), \$300.

(4)(a) Yes, the board is co-producing a half hour per week television program on MTV (channel 47 Toronto). For this program the board is paying \$55,000 annually to MTV for production costs. (b) The board is producing five-minute radio segments in Italian and Portuguese that are used on a number of Ontario radio stations. In 1981 the total costs for studio time and tapes for production of these public service announcements was \$1,555.

*Answers that are lengthy or contained tabular material do not appear here. They are available through the Office of the Clerk of the House. Interim answers also are not printed here. The information they contained can be found in the Order Paper at the end of the question concerned.

APPENDIX B

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(124 members)

Second Session of the 32nd Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. J. B. Aird, OC, QC**Speaker: Hon. John M. Turner****Clerk of the House: Roderick Lewis, QC**

Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)

Ashe, Hon. G. L.; Minister of Revenue (Durham West PC)**Baetz, Hon. R. C.;** Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Ottawa West PC)

Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)

Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Ottawa South PC)**Bernier, Hon. L.;** Minister of Northern Affairs (Kenora PC)**Birch, Hon. M.;** Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Scarborough East PC)

Boudria, D. (Prescott-Russell L)

Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L)

Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)

Breagh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)

Breithaupt, J. R. (Kitchener L)

Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)

Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)

Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)

Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L)

Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)

Copp, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)

Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman of Committees of the Whole House (York Centre PC)

Cunningham, E. G. (Wentworth North L)

Cureatz, S. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees of the Whole House (Durham East PC)

Davis, Hon. W. G.; Premier (Brampton PC)

Dean, G. H. (Wentworth PC)

Di Santo, O. (Downsview NDP)

Drea, Hon. F.; Minister of Community and Social Services (Scarborough Centre PC)

Eakins, J. F. (Victoria-Haliburton L)

Eaton, Hon. R. G.; Minister without Portfolio (Middlesex PC)

Edighoffer, H. A. (Perth L)

Elgie, Hon. R. G.; Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (York East PC)

Elston, M. J. (Huron-Bruce L)

Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)

Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC)

Fish, S. A. (St. George PC)

Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)

Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)

Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)

Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)

Gregory, Hon. M. E. C.; Minister without Portfolio (Mississauga East PC)**Grossman, Hon. L. S.;** Minister of Health (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)

Haggerty, R. (Erie L)

Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)

Havrot, E. M. (Timiskaming PC)

Henderson, Hon. L. C.; Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Lambton PC)

Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)

Hodgson, W. (York North PC)

Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC)

Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)

Jones, T. (Mississauga North PC)

Kells, M. C. (Humber PC)

Kennedy, R. D. (Mississauga South PC)

Kerr, G. A. (Burlington South PC)

Kerrio, V. G. (Niagara Falls L)

Kolyn, A. (Lakeshore PC)

Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin PC)

Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)

Leluk, Hon. N. G.; Minister of Correctional Services (York West PC)

Lupusella, A. (Dovercourt NDP)

MacDonald, D. C. (York South NDP)

Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)

MacQuarrie, R. W. (Carleton East PC)

Mancini, R. (Essex South L)

Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)

McCaffrey, Hon. R. B.; Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Armourdale PC)**McCague, Hon. G. R.;** Chairman, Management Board of Cabinet (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)

McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)

McEwen, J. E. (Frontenac-Addington L)

McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)

McKessock, R. (Grey L)

McLean, A. K. (Simcoe East PC)

McMurtry, Hon. R. R.; Attorney General (Eglinton PC)

McNeil, R. K. (Elgin PC)

Miller, Hon. F. S.; Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Muskoka PC)

Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L)

Mitchell, R. C. (Carleton PC)

Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)

Norton, Hon. K. C.; Minister of the Environment (Kingston and the Islands PC)

O'Neil, H. P. (Quinte L)

Peterson, D. R. (London Centre L)

Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)

Piché, R. L. (Cochrane North PC)

Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Pope, Hon. A. W.; Minister of Natural Resources (Cochrane South PC)

Ramsay, Hon. R. H.; Minister of Labour (Sault Ste. Marie PC)

Reed, J. A. (Halton-Burlington L)

Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L-Lab.) Renwick, J. A. (Riverdale NDP)

Riddell, J. K. (Huron-Middlesex L)

Robinson, A. M. (Scarborough-Ellesmere PC)

Rotenberg, D. (Wilson Heights PC)

Roy, A. J. (Ottawa East L)

Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)

Ruprecht, T. (Parkdale L)

Ruston, R. F. (Essex North L)

Samis, G. R. (Cornwall NDP)

Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)

Scrivener, M. (St. David PC)

Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)

Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)

Snow, Hon. J. W.; Minister of Transportation and Communications (Oakville PC)

Spensieri, M. A. (Yorkview L)

Stephenson, Hon. B. M.; Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (York Mills PC)

Sterling, Hon. N. W.; Provincial Secretary for Justice (Carleton-Grenville PC)

Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)

Stokes, J. E. (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Taylor, Hon. G. W.; Solicitor General (Simcoe Centre PC)

Taylor, J. A. (Prince Edward-Lennox PC)

Timbrell, Hon. D. R.; Minister of Agriculture and Food (Don Mills PC)

Treleaven, R. L. (Oxford PC)

Turner, Hon. J. M.; Speaker (Peterborough PC)

Van Horne, R. G. (London North L)

Villeneuve, O. F. (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)

Walker, Hon. G. W.; Minister of Industry and Trade (London South PC)

Watson, A. N. (Chatham-Kent PC)

Welch, Hon. R. S.; Minister of Energy (Brock PC)

Wells, Hon. T. L.; Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)

Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)

Williams, J. R. (Orillia PC)

Wiseman, Hon. D. J.; Minister of Government Services (Lanark PC)

Worton, H. (Wellington South L)

Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)

Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South PC)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier and President of the Council

Welch, Hon. R. S., Minister of Energy and Deputy Premier

Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Bernier, Hon. L., Minister of Northern Affairs

Snow, Hon. J. W., Minister of Transportation and Communications

Birch, Hon. M., Provincial Secretary for Social Development

Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Miller, Hon. F. S., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics

Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Agriculture and Food

Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities

McMurtry, Hon. R. R., Attorney General

Henderson, Hon. L. C., Provincial Secretary for Resources Development

Norton, Hon. K. C., Minister of the Environment

Drea, Hon. F., Minister of Community and Social Services

Grossman, Hon. L., Minister of Health

McCague, Hon. G., Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet and Chairman of Cabinet

Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Tourism and Recreation

Wiseman, Hon. D. J., Minister of Government Services

Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Walker, Hon. G. W., Minister of Industry and Trade
 Gregory, Hon. M. E. C., Minister without Portfolio
 Pope, Hon. A. W., Minister of Natural Resources
 Leluk, Hon. N. G., Minister of Correctional Services
 Ashe, Hon. G. L., Minister of Revenue
 Ramsay, Hon. R. H., Minister of Labour
 McCaffrey, Hon. R. B., Minister of Citizenship and Culture
 Sterling, Hon. N. W., Provincial Secretary for Justice
 Taylor, Hon. G. W., Solicitor General
 Eaton, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln), assistant to the Minister of Energy
 Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia), assistant to the Minister of Labour
 Dean, G. H. (Wentworth), assistant to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Colleges and Universities
 Fish, S. A. (St. George), assistant to the Minister of Citizenship and Culture
 Gillies, P. A. (Brantford), assistant to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development
 Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury), assistant to the Minister of Health
 Hennessy, M. (Fort William), assistant to the Minister of Northern Affairs
 Hodgson, W. (York North), assistant to the Minister of Government Services
 Jones, T. (Mississauga North), assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics
 Kennedy, R. D. (Mississauga South), assistant to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
 Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin), assistant to the Minister of Industry and Trade
 MacQuarrie, R. W. (Carleton East), assistant to the Solicitor General
 McNeil, R. K. (Elgin), assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food
 Mitchell, R. C. (Carleton), assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations
 Rotenberg, D. (Wilson Heights), assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York), assistant to the Minister of the Environment
 Watson, A. N. (Chatham-Kent), assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York), assistant to the Minister of the Environment
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Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York), assistant to the Minister of the Environment
 Watson, A. N. (Chatham-Kent), assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services
 Williams, J. R. (Orillia), assistant to the Minister of Revenue
 Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South), assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources

STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration of justice: Chairman, Mr. Treleaven; members, Messrs. Brandt, Breithaupt, Elston, Eves, MacQuarrie, McLean, Mitchell, Renwick, Spensieri, Stevenson and Swart; clerk, D. Arnott. General government: Chairman, Mr. Barlow; members, Messrs. Dean, Eakins, Gordon, Haggerty, Hennessy, J. M. Johnson, Lane, MacDonald, McKessock, Samis and J. A. Taylor; clerk, F. Nokes.

Resources development: Chairman, Mr. Harris; members, Mr. Andrewes, Ms. Fish, Messrs. Kolyn, Laughren, McNeil, Reed, Riddell, Stokes, Sweeney, Villeneuve and Williams; clerk, A. Richardson.

Social development: Chairman, Mr. Shymko; members, Messrs. Boudria, Cooke, Ms. Copps, Messrs. Gillies, R. F. Johnston, Kells, McGuigan, Pollock, Robinson, Sheppard and Watson; clerk, G. White.

Members' services: Chairman, Mr. Robinson; members, Messrs. Grande, Havrot, Hodgson, Jones, Mackenzie, G. I. Miller, Piché, Rotenberg, Runciman, Ruprecht and Wrye; clerk, A. Richardson.

Procedural affairs: Chairman, Mr. Kerr; members, Messrs. Breaugh, Charlton, Edighoffer, Epp, J. M. Johnson, Lane, Mancini, Piché, Rotenberg, Treleaven and Watson; clerk, S. Forsyth.

Public accounts: Chairman, Mr. T. P. Reid; members, Messrs. Bradley, Cunningham, Havrot, Kennedy, Kolyn, Philip, Sargent, Mrs. Scrivener, Messrs. J. A. Taylor, Wildman and Yakabuski; clerk, G. White.

Regulations and other statutory instruments: Chairman, Mr. Eves; members, Mr. Barlow, Ms. Bryden, Messrs. DiSanto, Gordon, Hennessy, Hodgson, Jones, Kerrio, McEwen, Runciman and Van Horne; clerk, D. Arnott.

SELECT COMMITTEES

Ombudsman: Chairman, Mr. Runciman; members, Messrs. Boudria, Cooke, Gordon, MacQuarrie, G. I. Miller, Mitchell, Philip, Piché,

Shymko, Treleaven and Van Horne; clerk, G. White.

Pensions: Chairman, Mr. J. A. Taylor; members, Messrs. Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Gillies, Haggerty, Jones, Mackenzie, McClellan, Riddell,

Van Horne and Williams; clerk, G. White.

*The lists in this appendix, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard on the first Friday of each month and in the first and last issues of each session.

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Boudria, D. (Prescott-Russell L)

Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)

Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)

Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L)

Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman and Acting Speaker (York Centre PC)

Cunningham, E. G. (Wentworth North L)

Cureatz, S. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman (Durham East PC)

Di Santo, O. (Downsview NDP)

Fish, S. A., Acting Chairman (St. George PC)

Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)

Haggerty, R. (Erie L)

Kolyn, A. (Lakeshore PC)

Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)

Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)

McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)

Miller, Hon. F. S., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Muskoka PC)

Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)

Peterson, D. R. (London Centre L)

Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)

Ramsay, Hon. R. H., Minister of Labour (Sault Ste. Marie PC)

Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L-Lab.)

Riddell, J. K. (Huron-Middlesex L)

Samis, G. R. (Cornwall NDP)

Snow, Hon. J. W., Minister of Transportation and Communications (Oakville PC)

Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (York Mills PC)

Stokes, J. E. (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Don Mills PC)

Turner, Hon. J. M., Speaker (Peterborough PC)

Walker, Hon. G. W., Minister of Industry and Trade (London South PC)

Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)

Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)

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